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Sources cited by KUNA asserted that Lebanese Resistance fighters thwarted an attack on the town and destroyed two armored vehicles. The SLA's Voice of Hope radio confirmed there was a clash in the area, but said the SLA sustained no casualties.

Palestinian Camps—Supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat have begun establishing artillery emplacements and rocket launchers around the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Coinciding with these military preparations, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio warned that Syria, "the regime of apostasy," has instructed the Fatah "dissidents" to attack 'Ayn al-Hulwah between 15 and 20 July.

Syrian intelligence official Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an has ordered his forces to provide full support for Abu Musa's forces, the radio claimed. In contrast, Damascus radio's Palestine broadcast featured a commentary which criticized 'Arafat for spending money on a new radio station in Sidon "to lure listeners away from Al-Quds radio," instead of using this money to support the uprising in the occupied territories.

Damascus Talks—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Islamic Unification leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, Damascus radio reported, adding that their talks focused on the Lebanese situation. Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described his 4-hour discussion with Al-Asad the previous day as "useful," the Voice of Lebanon noted, and said they assessed the Syrian Army's entry into the southern suburb of Beirut.

Libya-PLO

JANA denounced the document written by Bassam Abu Sharif, a Yasir 'Arafat adviser, as "high treason" and a "pan-Arabist crime" that disregards the blood shed in the Palestinian uprising.

Afghanistan

The Pakistani Army is being "readied" for "direct participation" in combat against the Afghan Army, TASS claimed, citing Pakistani press reports that Pakistan's President Zia "gave a sanction" for an "invasion." In a further report, TASS cited a Pakistani political leader as saying Pakistani troops would be "masquerading" as Afghan opposition forces.

The politician reportedly told the HINDUSTAN TIMES that Zia's plan "directly depends" on U.S. policy in the region. TASS urged Zia to "realize what risks" he is taking by threatening outright military conflict in Afghanistan.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov summoned the Pakistani envoy in Moscow 12 July and made a statement protesting Pakistan's "violation" of the Geneva Accords, TASS reported. The Afghan rebel government established in Pakistan has created an "atmosphere of confrontation," Vorontsov said.

He accused Pakistan of seeking to "build up and escalate" Afghanistan's domestic problems and said Pakistan will "bear the responsibility for the consequences" of its Geneva Accords violations. Vorontsov also met with the U.S. ambassador in Moscow and urged the United States to "employ its entire influence" on Pakistan to cease its "interference" in Afghan affairs.

A USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference in Moscow that Pakistan is attempting to "evade responsibility" for shelling and "acts of terrorism" in Kabul and other Afghan cities, TASS reported. The spokesman added that Soviet troops have been withdrawn from "as many as" 18 Afghan provinces.

Afghan resistance fighters have established bases within 6 miles of Kabul, Western diplomatic sources told AFP. Rebels have "stepped up" rocket and bomb attacks on the city, the diplomats said. Islamabad radio reported that rebel troops have captured the district headquarters of Moqor, on the road to Qandahar.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Seeks Arab Ministers Meeting on Camps

NC1207170088 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, July 12 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has called on Arab foreign ministers to convene an emergency meeting to discuss the beleaguered Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Palestinian and Arab sources here said Tuesday.

The PLO made the request in a memorandum to the Tunis-based Arab League last week.

The organization has repeatedly condemned Syria for backing dissident Palestinians who recently routed PLO fighters from their last two Beirut strongholds, the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah refugee camps.

But a special meeting of an Arab ministerial committee here last Thursday to examine the inter-Palestinian clashes called for a halt to the bloodshed but made no mention of Syria. [passage omitted]

In other developments, the PLO announced it would release funds needed for the reconstruction of the camps, which would be carried out with the assistance of the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency and Lebanese Government officials.

Sanaa VOP on Syrian Preparations To Attack Camps

JN1207185488 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] According to information we have received from our sources in Lebanon, the regime of apostasy [Syria] is currently preparing its forces to attack our camps in southern Lebanon, particularly in the Sidon area.

Our information also confirms that this regime's intelligence service has given instructions for the attack on 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp to take place 15-20 July. The dissident elements of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] will initiate this battle.

The so-called Ghazi Kan'an, the chief of the intelligence service of the regime of apostasy, has asked his forces in Lebanon to provide full support to those of Abu Musa.

Reports say the tanks of the regime of apostasy reached 'Alman area the day before yesterday.

DFLP's Hawatimah, Delegation Leave for Hungary

JN1107182788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] A DFLP spokesman said today that DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has left at the head of an important delegation for Budapest on an official visit to Hungary for talks on the latest Arab and international developments, support for the Palestinian uprising, and the call to convene an international peace conference that places the occupied territory under temporary international supervision.

Algeria

Delegations Arrive for Maghreb Unity Talks

LD1207213788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] For the sake of greater Maghreb unity, efforts are continuing to implement the resolutions and recommendations made by the region's leaders, especially those made at at the five-nation summit held last June in Algiers, which was the product of intensive efforts and contacts throughout the region. [passage omitted]

The summit outlined the ideal framework for incorporating the objectives of unity which are represented in the establishment of the joint Maghreb commission. The commission is due to convene tomorrow in Algiers [words indistinct] Mauritanian delegation led by Major Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, permanent secretary of the Military Committee of National Salvation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

He was met at the airport by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee's permanent secretariat; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; El-Hadi Khdiri, the interior minister; and some party and state officials. [passage omitted]

The Libyan delegation, led by Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, arrived after the Mauritanian delegation. Maj al-Humaydi was met by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, El-Hadi Khediri, and some party and state officials. [passage omitted]

Tunisia's Baccouche Arrives

LD1307052788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the joint Maghreb commission set up by the 10 June summit that brought together the leaders of Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, and Mauritania in Algiers will begin tomorrow in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Delegations of the joint Maghreb commission have begun to arrive in Algiers. Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived this evening. He was met at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat; Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; El-Hadi Khdiri, interior minister; and some party and state officials. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Delegation Visits Moscow

LD1007101488 Algeria APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Moscow, 10 July APS—Mr Mohamed Cherif Rahmani, secretary general of the Interior Ministry, arrived in Moscow yesterday at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Talks are scheduled to be held on Monday between the Algerian delegation and the Soviet side and with Mr Vlasov, the Soviet minister of internal affairs.

On Sunday the Algerian delegation will visit the city of Vladimir, which is situated 180 km from Moscow.

Chad

President Appoints Constitutional Committee

AB0807081488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] President Hissein Habre has just signed a decree setting up a constitutional committee.

Article 1: A constitutional committee charged with preparing a draft constitution of the Republic of Chad has been created.

Article 2: The composition of the constitutional committee is as follows: Chairman: (Alienge Balmayo); deputy chairman: (Mahamat Bilty); members [names indistinct]. The constitutional committee can invite any person likely to be able to help it in its task.

Article 3: The constitutional committee will submit the draft text within 5 months of its creation.

Article 4: The present decree becomes effective from the day of its signing and will be published in the official gazette.

Promulgated in Ndjamena on 8 July 1988.

[Signed] El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic

Zairian Secretary of State for Defense Arrives

AB0807104788 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The Zairian secretary of state for defense, General Likulia Bolongo, arrived in the country yesterday. He was accompanied by his principal adviser, (Colonel Assele). He was welcomed upon arrival by Routouang Yoma Golom, minister of labor and employment, representing the minister of national defense, veterans, and war vicitms.

After inspecting a guard of honor mounted by the two military detachments, Routouang Yoma Golom and his guest went to the VIP lounge of Ndjamena international airport where they received the Chadian and Zairian news media. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Decorated by Habre

AB0907071088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpts] A ceremony awarding commando certificates and decorations to the 4th Paratrooper Battalion trained at Kotakoli, in Zaire, was held at the Camp Des Martyrs in Ndjamena. [passage omitted] The graduation ceremony of the fourth batch of Chadian paratroopers thus continued here in Ndjamena with the award of certificates to the recipients in the presence of the Zairian secretary of state for national defense, General Likulia Bolongo, who arrived in our capital yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

After the military ceremony, the Zairian secretary of state for defense went to the Presidential Palace where he was received in audience by Head of State Hissein Habre, with whom he held discussions for some minutes. After the discussions, the president of the Republic decorated Gen Likulia Bolongo. The head of state raised him to the rank of Officer of the National Order of Chad.

[Begin Habre recording] Gen Likulia Bolongo, on behalf of the Republic of Chad, on behalf of the Chadian people, in conformity with the powers conferred on me, I make you an Officer of the National Order of Chad. [end recording]

After the decoration ceremony, the Zairian secretary of state for defense expressed his feelings to the national news media. Let us listen to Gen Likulia Bolongo:

[Bolongo] I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to President Hissein Habre for the great honor of bestowing this honorary distinction on me, one which exemplifies the excellent relations existing between Chad and Zaire, between the Chadian people and the Zairian people, between President Hissein Habre and his brother, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Minister Denies Troops Sent for Hajj Security

NC1207122688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr has asserted that a report carried by a foreign news agency that Egyptian troops have left for Saudi Arabia to participate in the task of maintaining order and security during the pilgrimage season is totally untrue.

In a statement to MENA, the interior minister said that the Islamic and Arab world has full confidence in the competence of the Saudi security forces and their ability to provide full security during the Hajj season, in addition to providing all the necessary care for the pilgrims.

Reportage on Sudanese Trade Delegation Visit

Arrives in Cairo 9 Jul

NC0907090788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil, Sudanese minister of economy and foreign trade, arrived in Cairo today at the head of delegation for a week-long visit to Egypt. He announced that he is bringing President Muhammad Husni Mubarak a written message on bilateral relations from Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Al-Fadil said his visit falls within the context of the Egyptian-Sudanese Joint Committee meetings, the purpose of which is to pursue the implementation of the trade and economic cooperation protocol and eliminate problems affecting commodity exchanges between the two countries. Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, met the Sudanese minister at the airport.

Message to Mubarak

NC1207123388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today. Sudanese Economy Minister Mubarak al-Fadil gave the message to President Mubarak when he met with him this morning.

In a statement following the meeting, the Sudanese official said the message deals with the course of relations between the two sisterly countries. He added that he and the president reviewed bilateral relations, coordination between the two countries on regional and international issues of common interest, Ethiopian-Sudanese relations, and the progress of the ongoing talks with Ethiopia, noting Egypt's role in this respect.

The Sudanese minister added that he and the president also reviewed Chadian-Sudanese relations and the ideas Sudan has proposed to find peaceful solutions for the current problems in Chad. The talks also dealt with the relationship of the two countries with international orgnaizations, particularly the IMF, and the economic reform programs currently being implemented in Egypt and Sudan. [passage omitted]

Regarding the situation in southern Sudan and the positive developments in this respect, the Sudanese official said the situation is militarily calmer now. The rebellion in the eastern equatorial region is over, and in

the Upper Nile region and the Bahr el Ghazal province it is almost over, he stated. He added that military operations are underway to contain the rebellion in the eastern equatorial region [as received] in a way that does not affect security in the area. As for negotiations and peaceful solutions in this respect, he declared, the Sudanese Government has undertaken several initiatives expressing its readiness to enter talks and discuss all the problems marring relations between the north and the south in the country. [passage omitted]

Mediation With Libya Discussed

NC1207175588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received Sudanese Economy Minister Mubarak al-Fadil, who is visiting Cairo. Following the meeting the visiting minister stated that they had discussed matters of mutual interest, regional issues, Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, Egyptian-Libyan relations, and Chadian-Libyan relations. He said the views of both countries on ways to improve these relations were aired during the meeting.

He added that they had also discussed the Sudanese initiative to end the Chadian-Libyan conflict and reviewed Egyptian-Sudanese coordination in all international spheres.

He said the talks also dealt with the Sudanese initiative concerning Egyptian-Libyan relations and remarked that the Sudanese initiative has made some positive progress. He added that specific proposals are now being prepared on normalizing relations, noting that the initiative is now at a consultative stage among the three parties. He expressed hope that positive and tangible steps would be taken in the near future.

The Sudanese economy minister explained that the Sudanese formula for initiating an Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement is still being discussed. He added that he took this formula with him when he visited Libya last month. He explained that the initiative is based on fundamental principles that distinguish between differences over the pan-Arab cause and relations between two neighboring peoples linked by the bonds of language, religion, proximity, and Arabism. Al-Fadil noted that these links invoke needs that must be borne in mind. He noted that it is possible to separate the two matters, with each party maintaining its own views on pan-Arab issues.

Regarding Egyptian mediation to resolve the southern Sudanese crisis, he asserted that Sudan welcomes any Egyptian mediation. He noted, however, that the rebel movement has now become hostage to foreign parties. He added that unless there is progress in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, the rebel movement will not respond to any mediation. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee Ends Meetings

NC1207204588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Meetings of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese trade committee for implementing this year's trade protocol between the two countries ended in Cairo this evening. The meetings, which opened last Saturday, were cochaired by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil, Sudanese minister of economy. The conferees agreed to add new items to the list of commodities exchanged between the two countries with a view to providing greater opportunities for exporters and to promote bilateral trade.

The conferees discussed ways of settling Sudan's debts and giving impetus to the implementation of the trade protocol. They also discussed bases and regulations for including the value of Sudanese border trade in the two countries' joint account in order to maintain an equal trade balance, because this border trade had been maintained outside the protocol.

The two sides discussed balanced trade deals and their rate of implementation and recommended that the necessary measures be taken to expedite the implementation of these deals.

The Sudanese economic delegation which participated in the meetings is to leave Cairo for home tomorrow, Wednesday.

Delegation Departs

NC1307071788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil, Sudanese minister of economy and foreign trade, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo early this morning, following a 4-day visit. During the visit, Al- Fadil met with President Husni Mubarak and gave him a message from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Al-Fadil led his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Sudanese joint committee for trade cooperation.

Sudanese Defense Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1207124888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a 4-day official visit to Egypt. The visit is in response to an invitation from Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

Major General Faruq 'Abd al-'Azim, commander of the Central Military Region; and 'Abd al-Latif al-Amin, Sudanese ambassador in Cairo, received the Sudanese minister at Cairo Airport.

Egyptian-Sudanese military talks are due to be held at the Defense Ministry's general headquarters tomorrow, Wednesday, under the chairmanship of the defense ministers of the two countries. An official reception ceremony for Gen 'Abd al-Majid Khalil will precede the talks.

The Sudanese defense minister will lay a wreath at the unknown soldier's monument in Nasr City tomorrow. He will also visit the Abu Za'bal company for engineering industries, "War Factory 100", which belongs to the National Authority for War Production.

Meets Mubarak

NC1307130788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The message was delivered today by Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil during his audience with the president.

Following his visit to War Factory 100 in Abu Za'bal, Gen Hamid Khalil said that he had exchanged views with President Mubarak on all issues of concern to Egypt and Sudan and other matters of interest to the region. He added that his meeting with President Mubarak was cordial and fraternal.

Regarding his talks with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, he said: We exchanged views and consulted as brothers on the ways of achieving development for our two countries and Armed Forces.

Answering a question on the situation in southern Sudan, Gen Hamid Khalil said: We assure our brothers in Egypt that the situation in southern Sudan is stable. The Sudanese Armed Forces are now in control of the south while the government is working to establish peace. We have proposed a peace initiative that calls for a constitutional conference to be held. A national committee has been formed for that purpose with the aim of reaching a peaceful settlement. All issues will be discussed at the negotiating table. The Sudanese Armed Forces must control the situation until the government reaches a peaceful settlement.

Regarding Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, the Sudanese defense minister said: We are seeking to develop these relations and restore them to their natural course.

In his remarks, Gen Hamid Khalil said that the Sudanese chief of staff will come to Cairo on Saturday to sign a protocol with his Egyptian counterpart Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf on the exchange of expertise and technical missions between the two countries, in light of the constant cooperation between the two fraternal countries' Armed Forces.

Sudan Rebel Garang To Resume Contacts With Cairo

PM1307132988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Mediation To End Southern Sudan War; Garang Agrees to Dialogue With Al-Mahdi in Cairo"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt has received southern Sudan rebel leader Garang's agreement to resume contacts with Egypt and send a delegation to Cairo or hold talks in a European capital or in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa with a view to settling the issue of southern Sudan.

The sources said that Egypt conveyed the results of its contacts with Garang when Sudanese State Council Member Hasan Taj al-Din visited Cairo for talks with President Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

They added that at present Egypt, through its contacts with the two sides and some friendly African states which have ties with Garang, is trying to bridge the gap in the views between Garang and the Sudanese Government and to prepare a working paper that could form a basis for dialogue to settle the issue.

Meanwhile, according to Egyptian reports, the Sudanese Government has decided to create a new Fraternity Department at the Foreign Ministry to coordinate Egyptian-Sudanese relations, as an acknowledgement by the Sudanese Government of the special nature of Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the wake of the dispute between the Al-Ummah Party and the Unionist Party over attitudes to Egypt.

The same reports say that the new department will coordinate with Egypt the positions of the two countries in international circles, promote common ground, and implement the part of the Fraternity Charter relating to foreign relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Soviet Economic Delegation Departs Cairo 13 Jul

NC1307155988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—A Soviet economic delegation led by Aleksandr Kalayan, chairman of the joint ventures agency of the Foreign Trade Ministry [name and title as received], left here for Moscow this afternoon at the end of a 10-day visit.

The Soviet delegation held talks with officials at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade and the Chambers of Commerce Federation on bolstering bilateral cooperation in all fields. The delegation also discussed the feasibility of setting up joint projects in Egypt and the Soviet Union in the fields of matallurgy, food, woodcraft, and chemical (cosmetics) industries.

People's Assembly Delegation Leaves for Moscow
NC1007101188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0856 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—A People's Assembly delegation, led by Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, left Cairo for Moscow this morning for a week-long official visit to the Soviet Union.

In a predeparture statement, Dr al-Mahjub said President Mubarak had given him a verbal message for the Soviet leaders, expressing his greetings to the Soviet Union and its leaders and his appreciation of them. He pointed out that the delegation's visit to Moscow will provide an opportunity to promote cooperation between the two countries' parliamentary assemblies. During their stay in Moscow, the members of the delegation will study developments in the Soviet Union and discuss matters of common interest to both countries, foremost among which are the Palestinian issue and the Gulf war, Al-Mahjub added.

Commission To Supervise USSR Tourism Accord
NC1207182588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—A decision has been made to establish a joint Egyptian-Soviet tourism commission to implement and follow up the tourism cooperation agreement signed by Egypt and the USSR in Moscow last week. The 5- year agreement is in force as of the beginning of this year and will be renewed automatically. Hamdi al-Shami, first under secretary at the Tourism Ministry, who signed the agreement for Egypt during a week-long visit to Moscow, has stated that the commission will meet once every 2 [illegible] in Cairo and Moscow alternately to oversee implementation of the agreement.

He remarked that the agreement provides for promoting Egyptian-Soviet tourism cooperation through exchanging tourist publications, screening films and exhibiting pictures, and exempting films and other tourism material from customs duty.

Al-Shami added that according to the agreement tourist companies in both countries will organize tourist exchange programs to increase the flow of tourists to Cairo and Moscow. Each country will facilitate issuing tourist visas to the citizens of the other country within a week of application. In addition, the two countries will exchange information, technical expertise, delegations, and experts in the field of training tourism workers.

AL-AHRAM Praises Relations with Soviet Union
NC1307070088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2137 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper praises the positive developments in Egyptian-Soviet relations. The paper notes that the progress of relations with the Soviet Union is primarily due to President Husni Mubarak's policy, which aims to establish good and balanced relations with all countries. This policy, the paper says, gives Egyptian diplomacy an active role in winning other countries and world public opinion over to our side regarding our domestic issues and the Arab nation's causes.

In its editorial appearing in Wednesday's edition, the paper notes that diplomatic circles in Moscow expect a mini-summit to be held between President Husni Mubarak and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev by the end of this year. The paper points out that the expected meeting crowns the positive development in Egyptian-Soviet relations over the past few years and the exchange of visits between the two countries, the latest and most important of which is the current visit to Moscow by an Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Departs 10 Jul
NC1007065288 Cairo MENA in English 0611 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 10 (MENA)—The foreign minister of Portugal left here this morning after a two-day visit during which he delivered a message to President Mubarak from President Mario Soares. The minister, who arrived on Friday, had a meeting yesterday with President Mubarak.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo
NC0907144288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera left Cairo this afternoon after a 4-day visit.

During his stay in Cairo, Cabrera met with President Husni Mubarak. He also met with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Dr Yusuf Wali, and Minister of Culture Faruq Husni.

In a pre-departure statement, the Guatemalan foreign minister said that he had handed a message to President Mubarak from the Guatemalan president. He also held talks with Egyptian officials on strengthening bilateral relations.

The Guatemalan minister was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Wahib al-Minyawi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Central America Department.

Ghali Returns From African Tour, Comments
NC1007160488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 9-day tour that included Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Addis Ababa.

Dr Ghali stated on arrival at Cairo airport that he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and held intensive talks with the Senate chairman, the vice president, the ministers of defense and health, and the foreign minister. His talks led to the signing of an agreement to set up a joint committee from the two countries, he added. [passage omitted]

Dr Ghali said that he also visited Botswana for 2 days during which he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to President Masire and held talks with the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Dr Ghali added that he visited Addis Ababa while en route back home where he met with the Ethiopian deputy foreign minister and discussed with him the two countries' stands on the problem of South Africa and the Nonaligned Movement policy. He concluded his statement by saying that he will submit a detailed report on his multipurpose mission to President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Economic Effects of Palestinian 'Uprising' Viewed
NC1307065488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper urges the Arab world to do its utmost to keep the torch of the Palestinian uprising alight for as long as possible. In this way Israel's economic resources may be further exhausted, the paper says.

In Wednesday's edition, the paper states that Israeli officials have admitted the high price which the Tel Aviv government is paying in its attempts to quell the brave uprising, which is becoming more steadfast and persistent as it enters its 8th month. The paper says that every Israeli citizen should be aware of the high price he is paying for his radical leader's insistence on continuing to usurp a land that was forcibly occupied by their troops, and on defying all international laws and principles which forbid the occupation of territories by force.

The paper notes that the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories is bound to drain the Israeli economy even further and increase the heavy burden from which the Israeli citizen is suffering. This, in turn, will heighten resentment within Israeli society and will militate in favor of peace, which is gaining more supporters every day, the paper concludes.

'National Salvation Front' Boycott Scored
JN1007195688 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 8 Jul 88 p 5

[By Editor in Chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad]

[Text] The opposition leaders yesterday announced their intention of setting up a "National Salvation Front" comprising the opposition parties, inasmuch as, according to Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, Egypt's ills are too onerous for one party to cope with on its own! Further, they argue that local council elections set for next November amount to a conspiracy by the NDP to abort the democratic march without regard to the Constitution or law!!

I am not contesting the right of the opposition to object to local laws or their decision to fight or stay away from the local elections. This is for them to decide according to their perception of their role and weight in the community.

Nor am I discussing the opposition parties' responsibility for the local election laws having been incompletely decreed. The opposition is to be held responsible since it has disregarded the inevitable connection between security and democracy and since some if not most of the parties have not realized that a society proceeding along the road to full democracy ought to fortify itself against undemocratic forces that do not deny that they want more than anything else to demolish the multi-party demcoracy. This is because they view it as an aberration and spurious, and an Islamic community should have no place for anything other than a universal [shumuli] system ruled by a despotic elite laboring under the illusion that it is the voice and will of God!

The responsibility for the local election law being thus incomplete does not lie solely with the NDP; it must be shared by the opposition parties that have defended these trends, not because they thought they had a sincere approach but to spite the NDP or to win votes even at the cost of platforms, principles, and the security of the society. Had the opposition parties realized that the underpinnings of a democratic society include its ability—more by its political forces than by its laws—to protect its democratic march and well-defined borders between terrorist activity and political activism, incitement and propagation [al-da'wah], and democratic forces and their opponents, the local law would not have turned out the way it has. I will not go into all of this; I will, however, discuss the opposition's call for launching what they called the National Salvation Front!

I think the opposition parties know that the national front can come into being and embrace various parties with diverse planks and political and social perspectives only if it is meant to defend the homeland against an

occupier. Regrettably, the outcome of this experiment is weak in Egypt. During the British occupation, all of the political parties in Egypt failed to form a National Salvation Front to protect the national soil from the occupiers. Yes, several national coalition governments were formed, but the aim was to share authority or overcome an unexpected political crisis. Our parties' history does not indicate the establishment of any national front except the Workers and Students Committee, which was established in spite of the parties and which was a symbol rather than an effective force in the homeland.

In the absence of an occupation force in Egypt, any talk about a National Salvation Front is futile, unless there is at least an agreement among these parties on the solutions implied in that program for the salvation of the homeland. Here, we have to ask the opposition parties about a substitute program, especialy since the programs of these parties conflict with one another. Some people want complete liberalism in the economy, which we have not found even in books; others want "Islamic solutions" without saying how, and others want a socialist method in which the role of the state is doubled.

We do not know how a National Salvation Front can be formed of parties that differ on all these issues, such as the state's role in the society, ways to deal with the population problem, guarantees for social security, assistance for those who deserve aid, and the role of the national capital in development. At the same time, they want us to believe the story of the National Salvation Front.

No national front can be formed without dialogue, no national front can be formed without agreement on specific programs, and no national front can be formed of a number of minority parties without turning, in the final analysis, into a sheer uproar increasing or decreasing in accordance with the weight of these parties in the society. I think that our society has lost patience with such uproars, especially if the aim is to share authority without an electoral or legal base under the slogan of the salvation front or its government.

Briefs

Israeli Envoy Concludes Tour

Cairo, July 12 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today the Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sason on the occasion of the end of his term of duty here. [Text] [*NC1207110688 Cairo MENA in English 1045 GMT 12 Jul 88*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Habre To Meet 'Next Month'

JN1207160288 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 12 (QNA)—A meeting between the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Chadian President Hissein Habre, will be held next month following the fruitful efforts made by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and Senegal, in easing tension between the two countries and reaching an ultimate solution to their conflict, press reports said here today.

UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quoted African diplomatic sources in Rabat as expecting that the meeting will take place in the Gabonese capital Libreville or in the Senegalese capital Dakar.

A meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries resulted in a solution for the conflict over the disputed border belt of Aozou, the sources added.

JANA Editor Denounces Calls To Recognize Israel

LD1207153688 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Some media organs have circulated the document published by the so-called Bassam Abu Sharif [PFLP Political Bureau member and editor in chief of AL-HADAF] in a number of U.S. newspapers calling openly for capitulating to and recognizing Zionist enemy, apart from selling out the right of the Palestinian people to liberate its occupied land since 1948.

Abu Sharif's document can be summarized as follows:

1 - Regarding the Palestinian Arab cause as a question of refugees, not a question of a people struggling for achieving its right to return to its occupied land that [it] has been expelled from.

2 - Relinquishing the armed struggle and the principle of liberating Palestine.

3 - Isolating the people of Palestine from the other parts of the Arab homeland, thereby making the cause of Palestine with no pan-Arab contents.

4 - Recognizing the Zionist enemy and its occupation of Palestine and the possibility of coexisting with it, thereby relinquishing the three pan-Arabist taboos, viz, no reconciliation, no-negotiations, and no recognition.

5 - Partitioning Palestine in lands under Zionist occupation and other parts to be under international tutelage.

JANA's Arab affairs editor has denounced the above capitulationist proposals commenting that such proposals can only be described as high treason and a pan-Arabist crime, whatever quarters may stand behind them, whether these quarters are directly responsible for what they put forward or are inspired to do so.

The editor continues that the danger posed by these proposals doesn't lie in those who circulate them. Rather, it lies in the course which was supposed to be

dropped with the demise of traitorous Al-Sadat. Such a course has been bypassad by the stage reached by what the revolution of angry generations has achieved.

This revolution has set ablaze the occupied land of Palestine thereby burning the feet of the Zionists for the last 8 months.

The editor stresses that the last word is now for the uprising and for those who baptise with their blood the land of Palestine for the victory of Arabism of Palestine and the defeat of the Zionist invaders. The calls for negotiations with the enemy and recognizing it at this very time and at any time constitute a disregard for the blood that has been shed, apart from being a free call for surrender to the Zionist enemy and disdainful disregard for the sufferings of 40 years in confronting the prejudiced, racist enemy.

The editor concludes that the angry Arab generation that has been born has taken the initiative now in occupied Palestine. In the lexicon of this generation there are no entries for such defeatist proposals. What activates it is the struggle to save this nation and defeat its enemies stressing its right to live free and with integrity on this planet.

Panamanian Chief of Staff, Delegation Arrive

LD1207210688 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, chief of the General Staff of the Panamanian Army and General Noriega's personal envoy, and a delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Col Sieiro made a statement to JANA following his arrival in which he saluted the people of the Great Jamahiriyah for their brave confrontation of the failed barbaric U.S.-Atlantic aggression.

He said: We have come here to express our solidarity with you in the face of this aggression. He added: Like you, we are exposed to imperialist plotting against our people, and we hope that our efforts against imperialism will be intensified.

Malagasy Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD1207105888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jul, JANA—Malagasy Foreign Minister Jean Bemananjara and his accompanying delegation this evening arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

He praised the brother leader of the revolution's gift to Africa on the 25th anniversary of the OAU and Africa Day. He told JANA that he was very proud of the declaration issued by the Jamahiriyah during the recent African summit.

He expressed his pleasure at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah and said that this visit comes within the framework of reviving bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He noted the imperialist circles' provocations aimed at dominating the free peoples. He stressed that these continuous provocations require cooperation, particularly Arab-African cooperation, and action to create an alternative. The continuity of this cooperation should be guaranteed in order to utilize our full potential.

Morocco

King Suggests Saharans Settle in North

LD1107124788 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Casablanca, July 11 (MAP)—King Hassan II invited young Sahrawis to settle in the northern provinces and work there awaiting the establishment of stability in the Saharan provinces, "stability that will be shortly established, thanks God, for we have asked for the implementation of a process that is conform to legality," the sovereign said.

In an address here Sunday before thousands of youth from all over the Kingdom who came to Casablanca to extend congratulations to the sovereign on the occasion of Youth Day, King Hassan II said Morocco requested the implementation of a process falling in line with legality and making neither vanquisher nor vanquished given that the will alone of the Saharawis will triumph once this will [is] expressed.

The sovereign who was particularly addressing the delegates of Sahrawi youth advised them, awaiting the implementation of the process, to settle and work in the northern provinces.

"We have given instructions to the public and private sectors as well as to industrial and agricultural enterprises to get in touch with these youth and propose to each one a work that fits his own choice", the sovereign said.

"I am convinced that those who will work for example in Tangiers, Oujda, Beni Mellal or Casablanca will feel great satisfaction and joy when they meet again with their relatives in Laayoune, Smara, Boujdour or Dakhla for the holidays", King Hassan II said.

Reportage on Visit of Romanian Foreign Minister

Filali Meets Counterpart Totu

LD0707134388 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Mr Abdellatif Filali, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, received Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu at the ministry this evening. The two ministers chaired the opening of the sixth session of the Joint Moroccan Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation.

In a statement on the occasion, his excellency the minister informed his Romanian counterpart that his visit to Morocco comes as part of the good relations linking Morocco and Romania that have developed in recent years thanks to the two countries' determination to coordinate their efforts.

His excellency the minister affirmed that the production capacity of the two countries and the diversification of fields of exchange will allow an increase in trade between them reaching $150 million by the end of 1990.

As for economic relations, his excellency the minister affirmed that the two countries had opened a new era since 1985 when they started implementing a project stipulating the execution of a number of small ports along the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

His excellency the minister added that in light of the initial experience, the two countries' committees would implement during this session another medium-term project that would guarantee the deepening of cooperation between the two countries at the technical level by the end of this century. [passage omitted]

Joint Commission Meets

LD0807145488 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Rabat, July 8—(MAP) Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu who is currently visiting Morocco to lead his country's delegation to the 6th meeting of the Moroccan-Romanian joint commission conferred here Thursday with Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman.

The two sides underlined the two countries' identity of views on international issues of mutual concern and hailed all efforts meant to establish peace on the international scene.

The Romanian official later on held separate meetings with Minister of Public Works, Staff and Vocational Training Mohamed Kabbaj and Minister of Trade and Industry Abdallah Azmani.

Talks covered the various aspects of bilateral cooperation and new avenues to further enhance this cooperation.

Ministers Sign Protocol

LD0807152588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Today, the sixth Moroccan-Romanian joint commission session concluded a protocol on the results of the talks. It was signed for the Moroccan side by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and for the Romanian side by Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu.

Abdellatif Filali, in a speech to mark the occasion, said that the sixth joint commission session provided an opportunity for the two sides to improve and consolidate their relations of cooperation, especially the development of social and economic relations. He expressed his satisfaction with the results of the commission's proceedings. [passage omitted]

The Romanian foreign minister was received earlier today by Minister of Post and Telecommunications Mohamed Laensar, on behalf of Bensalem Smili, minister of ocean fisheries and merchant marine. They discussed maritime cooperation between the two countries, and the possibility of establishing joint companies in fisheries and allied trades.

Totu Meets Hassan II

LD0907194588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] At noon today at the Royal Palace in Casablanca, His Majesty King Hassan II received Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu, who was accompanied by the Romanian ambassador to Rabat.

The Romanian minister handed his majesty a special message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser.

Commission Meetings End

LD0907194988 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Rabat, July 9 (MAP)—The Moroccan-Romanian joint commission wound up the works of its 6th session here Friday by the signing of the minutes of these meetings.

The 3 day meeting was devoted to discussing means of increasing the volume of trade exchanges between Morocco and Romania and enhancing economic and social cooperation particularly in the sectors of dams, roads and airports construction, as well as in the areas of vocational training and exchange of technical expertise.

The minutes were initialed by the Moroccan and Romanian Foreign Ministers Abdellatif Filali and Ioan Totu.

Reportage on Visit to Rabat by Turkish Envoy

Makes Dinner Speech

TA1107143288 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1450 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Rabat (A.A)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir said that Turkey which was concerned over the inability of establishing peace and stability in the Middle East wished that the Arab and Muslim countries move with a closer unity and solidarity.

Mr Kandemir who is currently on a visit here to hold political consultations attended a dinner hosted to his honour by Moroccan Foreign Ministry's state secretary.

In his speech during the dinner, Mr Kandemir who stressed that Turkey and Morocco had many common points, added that the Morocco visit of President Kenan Evren last year had been a milestone in the two countries' relations.

He went on to say that the Turkey visit of Moroccan King Hassan the Second this year will further improve relations.

"Turkey follows closely the developments in the Muslim world which are a source of deep concern and regrets that peace and stability is not still achieved, despite all efforts" Kandemir said, calling on Arab and Muslim countries to maintain closer solidarity.

Stressing that the Middle East problem stemmed from the Palestinian question, Mr Kandemir said that Turkey would welcome an international conference on the Middle East question.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Ambassador Kandemir said that Turkey was ready to fulfill any role expected from her for establishing a process towards an equitable and honourable peace.

He added that Turkey which attached great importance on her relations with neighbours exerted efforts to create a zone of peace with her neighbours.

Meets With Culture Minister

TA1207072888 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, currently on an official visit to Morocco, has met with Moroccan Cultural Affairs Minister Mohamed Benaissa. Pointing to the unsatisfactory level of bilateral cultural relations, Kandemir called on both countries to take initiatives that will exploit the potential in this field. He then relayed an invitation from Culture and Tourism Minister Tinaz Titiz to Benaissa for an official visit to Turkey.

In turn, Benaissa said that Morocco wants to benefit from the skills of Turkish musicians to train Moroccans in Islamic music. He also proposed holding a Turkish film week in Morocco.

2 Agreements Signed

TA1207180088 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Turkey and Morocco have signed two agreements, one restoring mutual exemption from visa requirements and another envisaging the establishment of a permanent intergovernmental committee. The agreements were signed by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir who is on an official visit to Morocco, and by the Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, Ahmed Cherkaoui.

The first agreement reinstates the 1966 visa exemption agreement which was unilaterally suspended by Morocco a while ago. Accordingly, as of 1 September 1988, there will be no visa requirement between Turkey and Morocco.

The second agreement envisages the establishment of a permanent intergovernmental committee with a view to implementing effectively the decisions adopted on bilateral relations.

Also, during the official talks held by Kandemir and Cherkaoui and their delegations, the two sides agreed to undertake joint investments in Morocco and third countries.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Mahdi Holds News Conference

On New Legislation

JN1207164488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—In his first news conference since forming the national reconciliation government, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reviewed the various topics of the hour and the government's efforts and opinions on these topics.

The conference was attended by Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, the minister of presidential affaiirs, the minister of finance and economic planning, the minister of public service and administrative reforms, and representatives of various media organizations.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that the draft of the criminal law, submitted by the attorney general to the cabinet, will be presented for useful, broad discussion before being approaved by the cabinet because these laws constitute a fundamental issue related to the country's different circumstances and to political and party conditions.

In his news conference today, his excellency said that most of the political forces that contested the elections in Sudan have abided by Islamic law. He stated that Sudan is a society that respects rights of citizenship, religious rights for the whole of Sudan, and human rights. It must be taken into consideration that Sudan proceeds in its diplomacy on the basis of peace and international cooperation.

His excellency said that all details must be clear to achieve a comprehensive view on the Islamic law which takes into consideration the views of the Muslim majority and the restrictions that will acheive Sudan's obligations toward its people and the international community. He explained that the law will also receive broad discussion in the Constituent Assembly.

His excellency said that there is an interaction between political and religious issues and that everyone must be given his full rights. This means that citizens must be given the right to work and their economic rights, which can be rationalized. The concept that the government follows on these issues has been agreed by all participants in the dialogue that was held with them.

Al-Mahdi explained that the government is trying to hold the constitutional conference at the first opportunity. Before it is held, there should be a solution for issues of law and legislation because the government has committed itself to abolishing the September laws. The constitutional conference cannot discuss laws, and the issue that has to be faced now is who issues the laws. The constitutional conference is not entitled to make these laws, although it can discuss them if decides to do so.

Al-Mahdi asserted that the government will not allow any group to hinder the implementation of these laws, and that these laws will be broadly and freely discussed. Ultimately, the resolution regarding these laws will be made by the Constituent Assembly, which is the people's forum to make resoltuions.

His excellency said that the government will determine how to announce these laws after they are approved by the Cabinet. The absolute silence about these laws is due to the fact that the Cabinet has not made a resolution on them. The draft of the laws submitted by parties will be reflected in the form in which the cabinet will make the resolution.

On Peace Initiative, South

JN1207164688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1502 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—At his news conference today, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reviewed the details of the peace initiative he announced 2 months ago and which he described as being part of the government's policy toward southern Sudan, the war, and its results.

The prime minister explained that the initiative contains a general introduction on the problem of war in Sudan and on the efforts the government is exerting through the submission of the necessary documents in this respect.

Al-Mahdi said that the initiative has three parts. The first deals with how to achieve a cease-fire; agreement on securing relief for those affected by war and famine; and discussion of the venue, date, and agenda of the constitutional conference to be held to resolve all the country's problems.

He added that the second part deals with the nature of the state's configuration, the relationship between religion and politics, Sudan's Arab and African affiliation, the distribution of resources, and power sharing. The third part of the initiative contains a proposal that, in the event the constitutional conference convenes and succeeds, it would provide for transitional measures comprising the promulgation of a general amnesty law, broader participation in government, a program on the return of expatriate Sudanese, the settlement of refugees, and the reconstruction of the south.

The prime minister said that the peace initiative he has proposed, and in which Sudan is participating, is part of the larger peace initiative in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, and is based on the belief that the Red Sea region is a hotbed of tension.

Al-Mahdi explained that, so far, he has received no reaction from John Garang's movement on this initiative. He said that although there are news statements in this respect, they cannot be viewed as official reactions.

On Regional Government

JN1207182388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1705 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that the governors of the northern regions, the commissioner general of Khartoum, and regional ministers will be named next Sunday.

In his news conference today, his excellency said that consultations among the regional government organs have determined the form of collective responsibility for governors, their deputies, and regional ministers. The relationship between the regions and the central ministry was determined to avoid contradiction.

Al-Mahdi added that the prerogatives of the governor, deputy governor, ministers, and popular council, which will participate in power, have been determined. He explained that the delay in announcing the names is due to consultations necessary to achieve the desired reform in regional government administration.

On IMF, World Bank Talks

JN1207184188 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 jUL 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stated that Sudan believes that the means it possesses to achieve a balance on the domestic and foreign level [words indistinct] better and more successful [words indistinct].

At his news conference here today, his excellency explained that the recent trip by the minister of state in the Ministry of Finance to Washington was to discuss Sudan's plan to achieve domestic and foreign balance with IMF officials. He said: We want the IMF to be convinced by our [word indistinct] stand. He added that the delegation went there with a specific working paper to assess the situation [passage indistinct]

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi explained that the delegation will also discuss with World Bank officials in Washington the issue of the loan the bank will provide Sudan for its economic recovery program. He pointed out that $15 million of this loan will be alloted to environment services in the national capital and to repairing roads, sewage systems, and so forth.

On Banking System Reform

JN1207184788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that the government will not liquidate the civil service institutions. During his news conference here today, he said that any liquidation [words indistinct] and that even these projects are classified within certain categories.

Regarding the liquidation of the public sector banks, his excellency said that these banks did not play the role required by investment in the interest of the people, adding that there should be an alternative to safeguard the people's money. He also said that these banks will be turned into [words indistinct] so that they can be banks for the entire people [words indistinct]

The prime minister also said that his government is committed to reforming the banking system to finance investment and making them profitable, turning away from the domination of the feudal parasites.

He said that certain sides will assess the issue of the public sector banks in terms of net profit of each bank and define the value of the new shares, the value of the contribution of the public sector and employees at these banks, and the legal measures to safeguard public interests. He said: We do not want the public institutions to be aid institutions, and we do not wnat to sell the banks to the private sector [words indistinct]

On Foreign Policy

JN1207184988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has explained that the new conditions in Sudan call for a formulation of a uniform foreign policy that will serve Arab and African development and Sudan's initiatives to solve the problems in the Horn of Africa, Red Sea, and neighboring countries.

In his news conference today, his excellency said that the government will pursue a clear foreign policy. Sudan's embassies abroad will adhere to this policy to implement Sudan's role and foreign policy to achieve solutions to different issues.

U.S. Activities Cited in Explosions Trial

JN1207193988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1731 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jul (SUNA)—In a new development in the case of the explosions at the Acropole Hotel and the Sudanese Club, the fifth defendant, Ibrahim Qusa'i revealed new details in today's court session on the smuggling of arms into Sudan.

He revealed that the weapons were smuggled by six of the Sudanese comrades, who are Sudanese revolutionaries. They smuggled the weapons through a Sudanese port as goods under the cover that they are Sudanese working abroad.

The defendant added that they stored the weapons in three areas inside Sudan. He said that some Sudanese brothers had revealed to them the conditions of foreign powers in Sudan through documents, documents which proved that the relief organizations in Sudan were involved in espionage.

The defendant said that the United Sates has four political detention camps, and that there are many more. One of these is in the form of a farm run by the CARE relief organization, and in which they use the most cruel methods to torture the cormades.

Defendant Ibrahim Qusa'i said a close observation of the imperialist and Zionist targets in Sudan have affirmed the involvement of the Sudanese Club and the Acropole in the espioange activities inside Sudan. The defendant referred to what he called American scandals on Sudanese territory. He said one of our female Sudanese comrades, who was working in an international organization, was arrested following a tip from an Islamic faction.

He said: Following that, we sent a threat to the U.S. and British Embassies in Khartoum in English. We wrote in it: "We have important information on everything, so you mut leave the country. The fortress of espionage will not protect you all the time. Believe us, we will throw you out of the country. Expect the grand revolt." We signed the threat under the title the Revolutionary Cells and the Sudanese Commandos Organization.

Defendant Qusa'i added: Following this, the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum leaked information to the National Islamic Front (NIF). The embassy told them that a group of Lebanese had entered Sudan to carry out assassinations and to strike against the NIF's interests

and some Arab embassies. The purpose behind this misinformation by the U.S. Embassy was to bring approximately 51 U.S. Marines into Sudan.

The defendant said: A third operation was supposed to take place at the same time as the other two that were carried out. This operation was cancelled because a Sudanese delegation, consisting of seven people, entered. [sentence as received].

The operation was aimed against a Western ambassador. He pointed out that the two operations resulted in the deaths of 17 persons, including 10 Britons and 5 Americans. Among those was (Huges Alcot), first secretary at the U.S. Embassy to the Zionist enemy in 1984. Thirteen other persons were injured.

Chevron Oil Denies Government's Allegations

JN1107114688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 11 (SUNA)—The general director of U.S. Chevron Oil Company has denied the allegations that the Sudanese Government had informed the company to stop the implementation of the agreement signed between Sudan and Chevron if not the company resume oil prospections. [sentence as received]

He also denied that his company had asked compensations from the government adding that the company concluded an accord with the government according to which the company will operate in the secure areas.

He indicated that the company transported its equipment to Al-Muglad area (Western Sudan) to begin operations there.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Baccouche Returns From Libya

LD1107221088 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, accompanied by Interior Minister Habib Ammar, returned to Tunis this afternoon from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah after completing the mission entrusted to them by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Talks Begin With Mauritanian Foreign Minister

LD1207101488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the second session of the Tunisian-Mauritanian joint commission started yesterday evening at the Foreign Ministry under the chairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two brotherly countries, Mahmoud Mestiri and Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane.

Mahmoud Mestiri pointed out that the promotion of various aspects of cooperation has already started, whereby the necessity of clarifying views with regard to various issues—and primarily the adoption of an agreement on the exemption from customs charges and other dues of similar effect—is on the agenda.

He explained in the same context that it is possible to consolidate economic integration if what was previously agreed upon as regards fishing be achieved and if the desired impetus be provided in the two countries' cooperation in the field of transport and mines.

This should boost technical cooperation which will support Mauritania's efforts for the achievement of comprehensive development.

He stressed Tunisia's concern to provide impetus to cooperation between the two countries in the fields of information, culture, and youth and sports, which will contribute to rapprochement between the two peoples and consolidate the ties between the growing generations. [passage omitted]

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Attack Panamanian Tanker

NC1207175888 Paris AFP in English 1752 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, July 12 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats attacked the Panamanian-registered tanker "Universal Monarch" late Tuesday in the central Gulf, shipping sources here said.

The 81,282-tonne (dead weight) vessel was hit at 7:40 p.m. (1640 GMT) and a fire broke out in the engine room, the sources said. There were no reported casualties.

Kuwait

Further on Visit to U.S. by Shaykh Sa'd

Attends 'Working Dinner'

LD1207171688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0758 GMT 12 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis and Rashid al-Ruwayshid]

[Text] Washington, July 12 (KUNA)—Discussions between Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah and his American counterparts shifted to the diplomatic front Monday night during a working dinner at the State Department.

The working dinner was hosted by U.S. Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead in honor of Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying delegation.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and regional issues with special emphasis put on ways of ending the Iran-Iraq war and the latest American peace initiative to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in addition to the seven-months-old Palestinian uprising—the intifada.

The American side also seized the opportunity to highly praise Kuwait's firm and unyielding stand against terrorism as witnessed during last April's hijacking of the Jabiriyah Kuwaiti airliner.

The Kuwaiti side to the talks included, in addition to Shaykh Sa'd, each of Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, and Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti delegation also included the director general of Shaykh Sa'd's Office 'Abd al-Latif al-Bahar, the assistant undersecretary for the Amiri Diwan Tawfiq 'Abd al-Karim al-Nasir, and the Director of the Department of the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Latif al-Sharikh.

The American side to the talks was led by Whitehead, who is acting secretary of state during Secretary of State George Shultz's absence from Washington. Shultz is on a previously-scheduled two-week tour of the Far East.

The American side also included, among others, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, and head of the Arabian Gulf Region at the State Department Barbara Bodin, and others.

Before the dinner, Shaykh Sa'd toured the famous eighth floor of the State Department where all the department's private arts and antiques collection are beautifully displayed. The dinner then followed in the famous Madison Room usually reserved for visiting dignitaries and heads of state.

During and after the working dinner and in the brief toasts exchanged, the two sides reviewed a number of issues but emphasis focused on both the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in the Gulf region, the reflagging and escort operation, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Acting Secretary Whitehead briefed Shaykh Sa'd about U.S. efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, especially those being exerted at the Security Council.

Shaykh Sa'd also presented Kuwait's position on the war which has ravaged the region and has affected the security of all states for the last eight years while threatening the freedom of international navigation in the Gulf waters.

The crown prince and prime minister briefed Whitehead about Kuwait's unyielding efforts aimed at mediating an end to the war and finding a comprehensive settlement through negotiations and based on U.N. Resolution 598.

Shaykh Sa'd pointed out the fact that Iraq has declared its unequivocal acceptance of Resolution 598, which remains the only means to end the war peacefully.

There was also extensive discussion about the Arab-Israeli conflict and especially the latest effort by Secretary of State George Shultz to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference.

Acting Secretary Whitehead briefed Shaykh Sa'd about the progress achieved by Shultz during his four trips to the region this year and some of the obstacles that have been faced on the way.

Shaykh Sa'd, after listening to Whitehead, then presented a clear and concise review of Kuwait and the Arab position as recently outlined in the final communique of the Arab summit conference held in Algiers, especially the importance of convening an international conference under United Nations auspices.

But Shaykh Sa'd put special emphasis on the meaning of the Palestinian uprising and noted that the heroic intifada of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation has changed the balance of forces and truly reflects the will and desire of the Palestinian people.

The crown prince and prime minister made it clear that Kuwait fully supports the intifadah and believes that there can be no solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict until the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and to a homeland are recognized and met. Shaykh Sa'd is expected to emphasize the same points to President Reagan when the two meet at the White House on Tuesday.

Shaykh Sa'd and President Reagan will hold a private meeting in the Oval Office and then an extended meeting with their top advisers followed by a working lunch. Shaykh Sa'd and the President are expected then to make brief departure statements.

A senior American official will brief newsmen about the White House talks.

Tuesday evening, Shaykh Sa'd will travel with Vice President George Bush to Cincinnati on a private visit returning to Washington late in the evening.

Missile Sale Viewed

LD1207173388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 12 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, July 12 (KUNA)—The Reagan administration gave clear indications that it will go back to the U.S. Congress to convince members to go back on their decision to remove the sale of Maverick missiles to Kuwait and emphasized that the arms package must pass through as a whole without any changes.

A senior administration official, briefing newsmen at the White House on Shaykh Sa'd's talks with President Reagan scheduled for Tuesday, warned that it is unlikely that Kuwait will go ahead with the sale of the 40 F-18 fighter planes if the Mavericks are not included in the package.

The official, who cannot be named under background briefing rules, said,

"We hope that the sale of the package will go forward intact. The Maverick missiles are an integral part of this package and the Kuwaiti request for the F-18s with the weapon system should be considered seriously by the Senate."

The White House official added, "We are ready to work closely with the Senate and the Congress on the sale, and consult fully with them in the days and weeks ahead."

The key issue involved, the official explained, is "whether the U.S. is prepared to support a friendly Arab state in the (Arabian) Gulf to meet its self-defense requirements at a critical time when the U.S. has made a massive investment of its resources—military strategy and political will—to support the freedom of navigation, free flow of oil and to deter Iran from intimidating the Arab Gulf states. Going elsewhere for arms (by Kuwait) is just one factor in the greater picture."

He continued, "We should not force Kuwait to go elsewhere. It does not make sense either in terms of our foreign policy interests or in terms of the domestic economic impact of such a sale."

According to this official, Kuwait, as a friend, has come to the U.S. and asked for the "legitimate and necessary tools" to provide for its own defense and to share with us the defense of the vital (Arabian) Gulf."

He reminded Congress that it (Congress) has repeatedly asked the administration what the Gulf states are doing for their own defense.

"Kuwait has answered that they wish to do more and have indicated their preference to work with us in doing this. We should respond positively—we should not force Kuwait to turn elsewhere."

Asked whether Kuwait has indicated that it will not accept the arms package, which is being paid for by Kuwait in cash, if the Mavericks are not included, the administration official said, "we have presented the arms sale as an integrated package. It will be highly problemmatic if the package is taken apart."

Asked about the deal between Kuwait and the Soviet Union that was announced by Kuwait on Sunday, the administration commented,

"We have just gotten the specific initial reports. But this is part of Kuwait's diversification arms purchase strategy. It does not seem as if it is a significant departure from the traditional Kuwaiti practice."

Outlining the subjects that Shaykh Sa'd and President Reagan will be discussing Tuesday, the senior administration official said obviously the Iran-Iraq war will be a major topic.

"The relationship between the U.S. and Kuwait has expanded over the past year. This natural evolution is a result of the perception that the basic course of instability in the Gulf is the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war."

He added, "This is a shared perception that we have with the Kuwaitis. Also we have a shared conviction with the Kuwaitis for the urgent need to end the war, which threatens not only the security of Kuwait, the other GCC states, but threatens vital U.S. interests and those of our allies in the region."

The administration official continued, "Consequently, diplomatic efforts to end the war through the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 will feature prominently in the discussion."

The American Government official also strongly lauded Kuwait's stand in combatting terrorism.

"Kuwait stands tall among the international community in fighting terrorism."

He noted that the recent hijacking of the Jabiriyah and Kuwait's refusal to give in to terrorist demands was applauded by the civilized world.

The official continued, "We support Kuwait's strong stand and appreciate its unfailing cooperation to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism."

He said it was "quite symbolic" that Shaykh Sa'd flew into Washington abroad the Jabiriyah that was hijacked last April along with the crew that was hijacked.

"It is a symbol that not only do they stand up to terrorism, but that they want to show how staunch they are in terms of their fight against terrorism."

The Arab-Israeli conflict will also feature highly in Shaykh Sa'd's talks with President Reagan, according to this official.

"We will discuss the U.S. efforts and especially those of Secretary Shultz, to move the process forward to negotiations. We remain engaged with the parties in our plan to get negotiations started. It is the only workable and realistic alternative on the table."

Received by Reagan

LD1207183388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1709 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 12 (KUNA)—President Reagan warmly received Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister at the White House Tuesday for crucial talks on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Shaykh Sa'd headed immediately to the Oval Office for the traditional photo opportunity. A big throng of American, international, and Arab photographers and crews were there.

This is the first visit by such a high-ranking Kuwaiti official to the White House in 21 years. The Kuwaiti and American flags flew high in the hot and muggy Washington weather along Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House as Shaykh Sa'd's motorcade drove into the presidential mansion.

After the welcoming ceremony, President Reagan and Shaykh Sa'd had a private meeting in the Oval Office and then later joined their full delegations to discuss issues on the agenda.

The Kuwaiti delegation included Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah is also with the delegation and was the only member present in the Oval Office during the photo opportunity, where newsmen were not allowed to ask any questions.

Also present was the Director General of Shaykh Sa'd's Office 'Abd al-Latif al-Bahar, Tawfiq 'Abd al-Karim al-Nasir, who is assistant undersecretary for amiri diwan, and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Latif al-Sharikh, director of the Department of the Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the American side, Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead, who is replacing Secretary Shultz during his absence from Washington, led the team.

Also present at the talks was the head of the Near East section of the National Security Council Ambassador Robert Oakely, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, and the American Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel, among others.

After the official working session, President Reagan was hosting a lunch in honor of Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying delegation.

President Reagan and Shaykh Sa'd were expected to make farewell statements after lunch.

After lunch, Shaykh Sa'd will meet with members of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private think-tank in Washington, and then he will later fly with Vice President George Bush to Cincinnati to attend the All-Star baseball game. The crown prince returns to Washington late at night.

Makes White House Statement

LD1207181088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1750 GMT 12 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis and Rashid al-Ruwayshid]

[Text] Washington, July 12 (KUNA)—President Reagan Tuesday reaffirmed, for the first time by an American President "the legitimate political aspirations" of the Palestinian people.

Reagan spoke about these rights during a farewell statement following three hours of talks with Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and the accompanying Kuwaiti delegation.

In what appeared to be a major concession made to his Kuwaiti host, President Reagan said, "In our discussions today, we reaffirmed the urgent need for a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian problem.

"The United States will continue to work actively in the pursuit of a comprehensive peace that would realize the legitimate political aspirations of Palestinians while safeguarding the legitimate security concerns of Israel."

Although Secretary of State George Shultz had talked on his last trip to the Middle East region about the "legitimate political rights" of the Palestinians, these rights have never been uttered by an American president before from the White House.

[passage omitted] Reagan noted how during the past year "the two countries have worked together successfully to help defend the safe passage of neutral shipping through the vital waters of the Gulf."

He added, "Together, we have taken steps to help ensure the safety of Kuwaiti oil tankers as well as preserve the crucial principle of free navigation that we both believe in."

Reagan continued, "Kuwait is respected throughout the world for its moderation, skillful diplomacy, and commitment to seeking negotiations and solutions to international disputes."

Reagan emphasized the fact that "despite your preference for diplomacy, you have known how to stand firm against intimidation and prevent the Iran-Iraq war from compromising the independence of the non-belligerent Gulf Arab states."

The American President said the United States was glad to assist Kuwait in its effort "and to support your program for upgrading your defenses against increased threats." [passage omitted]

He then lauded Kuwait for its tough stand against terrorism. "Kuwait, under the courageous leadership of his highness the amir and yourself, has set a stirring example in resisting terrorist threats and intimidation. All Americans salute your steadfastness and resolve," Reagan stated. [passage omitted]

Following is full text of Shaykh Sa'd's statement at the White House.

Mr President: I have great pleasure in expressing to you my most sincere thanks for the gracious invitation which you extended to me to visit your great country...a visit during which I had the pleasure of meeting and discussing with you a number of topics of mutual concern to both our friendly nations. The visit has also provided me with a good opportunity to meet with officials in your administration and the Congress, as well as the friendly American people.

While expressing my warm appreciation for your kind words about my country, Kuwait, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you and to the American people the warmest feelings of cordial friendship from his highness the amir, the government and people of Kuwait.

Mr President, the comprehensiveness, depth and (?sensitiveness) that have marked our talks today reflect the advanced and ever developing level reached in our mutual relations. Our talks have also revealed identical views in assessing the great potential for the continued development of cooperation and friendship between the United States and Kuwait. This gives us yet greater confidence in the future of our relationship. Our common and solid belief in spiritual values, human principles and norms controlling relations between nations and peoples constitute, in our opinion, the proper framework for the development of our relations.

We in Kuwait have high admiration for the values and principles upon which, and for which, your great country had been founded, and we also appreciate the remarkable achievements of the American people in various fields of human endeavour and progress.

We likewise appreciate the effective role of the United States as a superpower in resolving issues of world peace and security as well as its keenness to seek suitable solutions to international problems.

As regards our region, we especially value all that the United States has done and is doing towards an end to the Iraq-Iran war, and for safeguarding international navigation in the Arabian Gulf. Your support has won the gratitude of the government and people of Kuwait. Your stance reflects the depth of our ties of friendship.

Mr President, we have followed with great interest your efforts towards peace in the Middle East. We hope that such efforts will continue and lead to a just and lasting peace, and as the Palestinian question is the core of the conflict in the Middle East, we are confident that the recognition of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the necessity of their participation—represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation—in any future efforts to attain this noble goal, are essential requirements for peace in this region.

Mr President, I would like to reemphasize that we in Kuwait highly value the friendly backing of your nation in our firm stand against all acts of terrorism which have been repeatedly directed at our country and people in the last few years. Such support by you and your friendly people has strengthened our resolve and determination to stand firm against these atrocious acts.

Mr President, I would like to wish your great country continued progress and prosperity, and to your kind person and esteemed family the best of health and happiness.

Thank you, Mr President.

Daily Criticizes Senate's Refusal of Missile Deal

JN1207180688 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 11 Jul 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Suitable Deal at the Appropriate Time"]

[Text] When the U.S.-Israeli agreement for conducting research on an antimissile system was reached, enemy war minister Rabin called the agreement new evidence of the close ties between the United States and Israel, adding that it is necessaray to confront what he described as the ever-escalating threat posed by Arab missiles.

The U.S. Senate has adopted a stand hostile to the defensive weapons deal that Kuwait has requested to modernize its equipment and weaponry to confront the multifaceted threats and dangers it faces.

This contradiction in U.S. stands and policies is surprising and makes one wonder. The United States has shown that it is an unbiased party not only in its efforts to seek a peaceful settlement in the Middle East but also in the duality of the U.S. concept with respect to the desire of every country to protect itself and secure its needs through the establishment of a protective shield that will safeguard its security and sovereignty.

We ignore the reason for which the U.S. Senate unanimously voted against the missile deal, which should have accompanied the aircraft Kuwait had requested. We can only say that the Senate could not betray its absolute loyalty to international Zionism, although there was only a brief period between the U.S.-Israeli agreement on the production of missiles and Kuwait's request to purchase U.S. weapons.

When it submitted its request to purchase U.S. weapons, Kuwait was convinced that the deal would pass through the usual legal channels because of the special relationship between Kuwait and the United States. This relationship is characterized by friendship and cooperation and is not hampered by any important problems. A ranking State Department official has admitted that relations between the United States and Kuwait are strong and advanced. He also praised his highness the heir apparent's visit to Washington, especially since Kuwait emphasizes the importance of resorting to diplomacy and negotiations as a way to settle conflicts.

For his part, while commenting on the Senate's decision to ban the sale of Maverick missiles to Kuwait, the U.S. President has added new testimony confirming the soundness and wisdom of Kuwait's policy. President Reagan said that Kuwait is a moderate country that has withstood intimidation and threats to its security and existence.

The strange thing is that some U.S. Congressmen act against their country's interests and in Israel's. The Zionist lobbying groups within the U.S. Administration believe that they alone have the power to decide. They thus refuse or accept according to their whim, forgetting that there are other sources of weapons in the world, and ignoring how European governments and business and financial centers in London have welcomed the "deal of the century" between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia, a deal that will enhance the status of British industry, boost the budget, and create 18,000 job opportunities in the United Kingdom.

Kuwait has several choices for obtaining sophisticated weapons of a quality and quantity commensurate with its defensive needs and requirements. When it chose the United States, it did so out of its belief in friendship and its concern with establishing balanced and neutral relations with everybody. At the same time, however, it refuses to enter into haggling that might harm its independent decisionmaking or affect the rules of balance and equivalence in its relations with others. Kuwait will not hesitate to have recourse to other channels and sources for weapons whenever it faces political obstacles or difficulties from the U.S. Congress.

What is certain is that the obstruction of the deal by pressure groups in the United States, which are loyal to Israel, will inflict a big loss on the U.S. economy, and the big winners from this process will be the British and French companies, and maybe even the Soviets and Chinese.

Saudi Arabia

Nazir Denies UK Arms Deal, Oil Production Linked

LD1207220988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Jeddah, 12 Jul (SPA)—In response to REUTER reports from Tokyo today on expectations and forecasts attributed to oil industry sources, Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has told SPA that there is no link between the Saudi-British arms deal and the level of oil production in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The minister said: "The Kingdom still abides by the production level set by the latest OPEC agreement."

Mr Nazir also urged OPEC members to abide by the fixed production levels and called on oil-producing states outside OPEC to cooperate by reducing their production to restore balance on the oil market.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives Letter From Soviet Leadership

JN1107183688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at noon today Viktorovich Albert Veniamin, USSR ambassador in Sanaa. He gave a letter from the Soviet leadership to the president on current Arab and international developments as well as bilateral ties.

UN Security Council Informed of Iranian Law

JN1207112088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—Iraq today informed the UN Security Council five permanent member states of the text of a new Iranian law providing for the need to continue the war. Iraq urged these states to adopt a sound stand toward this aggressive course.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry today summoned and conveyed to these states' ambassadors in Baghdad an official memorandum in this regard. The Foreign Ministry informed them that the Iranian law, which was broadcast in Tehran on 5 July, considers the continuation of the war a lasting Iranian strategy. In its memorandum, Iraq stressed that this new Iranian law, the abnormal ideology included in the Iranian Constitution, and the repeated Iranian aggressions against Iraq in 1979 and 1980 prove that the Iranian regime is fully responsible for starting the war and aggression against Iraq.

In its memorandum, Iraq stresed that these facts also prove that although 8 years have passed in this aggression against Iraq, the Iranian regime, under circumstances in which the entire international community is unanimous on the need to end this war and to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace, stresses its basic intention and constant approach to continue war and aggression.

The memorandum stressed that the Iranian law proves that the Iranian Government flagrantly ignores and violates its international commitments in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law regarding cordial relations and cooperation among states. The memorandum affirms that a sound deduction of the flagrant and overt violation of these commitments indicates that the Iranian Government rejects, just as has been the case through the past 8 years, the UN Security Council's authority on the conflict.

The memorandum pointed out that these established facts necessitate that the UN Security Council member states deduce the sound conclusions of this Iranian law, which is supported by the Iranian regime's stands and policies since it began its aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980 and the continuation of this aggression until now.

It also emphasized that any hesitation in this regard would not be backed by any legal basis and would contribute to prolonging the war. The memorandum also said that that would enable the strange and abnormal Iranian regime, which has deviated from the will of the contemporary international community—a will whose objective is to achieve peace and cooperation among world peoples—to continue its aggression against Iraq and the region's states and threaten world peace and security.

Arab Envoys Informed

JN1307074288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has conveyed to the Arab ambassadors in Baghdad a memorandum including the text of the new Iranian law that was endorsed by the Iranian Majlis—a law providing for the need to continue the war against Iraq and considering it an issue topping all of Iran's domestic and foreign political issues.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that this law is very serious and necessitates that the international community draw sound conclusions from this Iranian law, which is supported by the Iranian regime's stands and policies since it began its aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980 and the continuation of this aggression until now.

Papers Comment on Iran's Killings of POW's

JN1107115588 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 11, INA—Iraqi papers today came out with editorials denouncing the appalling crime of killing Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs), saying that crime of the Iranian regime necessitated a full repatriation of POWs between Iraq and Iran.

Highlighting this subject, AL-THAWRAH paper said Iran should present to Iraq a list of names of Iraqi POWs in Iran.

The daily expressed disgust over the abhoring Iranian crime of murdering Iraqi POWs in Mawat, in the northern sector of operations, saying this mean crime demonstrated barbarism and longstanding hatred harboured by Iran against Iraq.

The Khomeyniist crime would not pass with impunity, the daily stressed, adding this crime would neither undermine resolute [as received] of Iraq and its Armed Forces nor lessen their determination to go ahead liberating the land, scoring victories and shattering Iran's war machine.

"This crime, which runs contrary to Geneva convention on POWs and which contradicts the most modest of principles and ethical and religious values, reflects brutality of Tehran regime and mirrors its blood-thirsty nature," AL- THAWRAH underlined.

AL-QADISIYAH paper said in this regard today, Iraq would retaliate for this crime by putting an end to and uprooting aggression and by destroying Iranian military and economic pillars of aggression.

AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Iraqi Defence Ministry, commented on the crime of killing Iraqi POWs in Mawat by saying that Tehran regime "is a sadist, terrorist mean regime. Everytime this regime suffers a defeat at the hands of Iraqi soldiers, it vents its spleen on innocent POWs," the paper noted.

The new Iranian crime of murdering Iraqi POWs in Mawat northern area of operations, after tieing them with ropes, "is another stain added to the Iranian regime's blemished record" the military paper said.

Vis-a-vis these facts, AL-QADISIYAH said, Iraq "calls on the international community and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to exercise their humanitarian and legal tasks and to immediately investigate the situation of Iraqi POWs in Iran and their hard conditions."

Saddam Chairs RCC, Party Meeting 11 Jul
JN1107112988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1039 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In the meeting, a discussion was held on the latest developments in the political situation, particularly the Iranian regime's crimes against Iraqi POW's and Iraq's request for the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to investigate these crimes and the conditions of the Iraqi POW's in general. The meeting also dealt with the situation in the Arab arena, particularly the crimes committed against the Palestinian Arab people in Beirut camps. The RCC and the Regional Command strongly denounced the campaigns of annihilation and liquidation against these camps at the hand of the Syrian regime's forces.

The RCC and the Regional Command considered Arab reaction to these crimes, which have suspect objectives, as being unequal to the dimension of these crimes. The RCC and the Regional Command have called for more vigilance vis-a-vis these suspect plots against the cause of the Palestinian Arab people, particularly with the escalation and continuation of the valiant uprising of the Palestinian Arab people.

Party Official Departs for Moscow 11 Jul
JN1107105388 Baghdad INA in English 0955 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 11, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi today left here for Moscow, leading a delegation on a visit to the Soviet Union during which he will attend two weeks of Soviet-Iraqi celebrations to mark friendship days between the two countries.

In a statement before departure, Dr. Hammadi said during the visit he would also hold talks with Soviet officials on Iraqi-Soviet relations, developments of the Iranian aggression on Iraq and issues of mutual interest.

He expressed hope that his visit would foster friendship relations between the two countries.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad for Visit 11 Jul
JN1107115288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—PLO executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today arrived here on a visit which will last several days.

He was received at the airport by the president and members of RCC Liberation Movements Office.

Daily Calls on Arabs To 'Expel' Syrian Regime
JN0907085288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has urged the Arab countries to condemn the Syrian regime and expel it from the Arab ranks because it is declaring war on the Palestinian resistance and allying itself with Iran against Iraq. AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today publishes an editorial on the Syrian regime crime under the headline "Another Massacre in the Burj al-Barajinah Camp."

AL-THAWRAH says: The pan-Arab responsibility calls on us today more than before to condemn the Syrian regime because it is traitor and is associated with the rulers of Tel Aviv and Tehran in one hostile scheme against the Arab nation. The paper adds: The Hafiz al-Asad regime's alliance with the Tehran rulers is public and proven with one thousand pieces of evidence and its alliance with Tel Aviv is also public and proven with one thousand pieces of evidence. The Damascus ruler can no longer put on other guises or colors because he has tried them all.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is necessary and urgent to condemn and expel Syria's ruler and his regime from the pan-Arab ranks. And this necessity is dictated by the pan-Arab responsibility. The paper says: The Damascus ruler declares war on and wages it against the Palestinian people in a scheme aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue. It has been proven that he is allying himself with the Tehran rulers, who are continuing their aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation and who have ambitions on the Arab territory and sovereignty, the paper says.

The Iraqi newspaper affirmed that the Syrian regime has exposed its traitorous nature, which is linked to the enemies of the Arab nation from Zionists to racist Persians, who have ambitions on the Arab territory and

sovereignty. It affirmed that the Palestinian blood presents a historical contribution to the march of the Arab revolution and the course of popular awakening. The Palestinian blood shed in the occupied cities and Burj al- Barajinah and Shatila camps writes the whole truth and names the enemies and agents, thereby facilitating the expulsion of those agents and their symbol, Hafiz al-Asad, from the Arab fold.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Palestinian people have proved to their enemies their permanent ability to be impartial and to wage militant acts despite all operations of destruction and annihilation. The Palestinian people have also proved that they can continue their revolution, achieve their unity, and succeed in moving their revolution from its vanguard state to its popular state. The paper affirmed that the Palestinian people will not be defeated despite the destruction. This has made the Palestinian people enjoy the support and respect of their nation and that of world public opinion. This also has made the Palestinian issue the main concern of the world as an issue of a people who have all right to existence and to independence on their national soil.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Syrian regime attempted to hide behind agent tools which it has been using since 1983. These agent tools were the Amal gangs one time and the dissident forces, acting on its instructions, other times. The Syrian regime could not hide its reality in all times. It emerged with all its weapons, strength, and political and combat influence as an exposed enemy that does not hesitate to commit massacres against the Palestinian civilians in the camps in a liquidatory scheme against the Palestinian people and their revolution.

AL-THAWRAH warned that the conspiratorial, liquidatory scheme embarked on by the Damascus regime will become bloodier and more comprehensive when the Palestinian people become more solid, deep-rooted, and united in terms of their will and leadership. The paper says: The plots are aimed against the Palestinian leadership and the political and combat presence of the PLO. The plots are also aimed against the entire popular Palestinian presence.

The newspaper adds that the plot took its criminal dimension when artillery and tank shells as well as deadly, poisonous bombs were aimed against the Palestinian Arab people in the Beirut camps. This is taking place after many attempts to split the PLO, destroy its combat and political presence, and launch a long, multifaceted, political, and conspiratorial war while the Zionist enemy was trying to annihilate the revolution militarily, assassinate its leaders, and create alternate leaders linked with it.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,258

JN1207170688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1616 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,258 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. With God's help, the victories which are planned, field commanded, and made possible by our victorious leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him and prolong his life to serve as an asset to this homeland and the entire Arab nation, are following one after another. The combat activities carried out by our victorious Armed Forces last night and today were as follows:

1. Displaying a high degree of efficiency and a capable performance, the aircraft of our heroic Air Force continued to provide their splendid support for our victorious Armed Forces while they were purging our dear land from the filth of the Khomeyniites. The lofty minded hawks managed to destroy 150 vehicles, 8 field headquarters, and 9 bridges used by the enemy for military purposes. Having flown 251 combat missions, all of our aircraft returned safely and victorious to base in God's care and protection. May God bless your endeavors, you rapacious hawks. God the Almighty be praised.

2. As has always been their custom, the courageous knights of the helicopter gunships carried out resolute attacks in the battle for liberating our dear land. They managed to provide the most splendid support for our heroic combatants through 142 combat sorties, during which they inflicted significant losses on the enemy in scoundrels, weapons, and vehicles. Then, they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base. May God salute our zealous knights. God be praised for the support He has granted us.

3. At 0915 [0515 GMT] today, one enemy F-5 plane attempted to violate our international borders in the III Army Corps sector east of al-Basrah. The plane was confronted by the brave men of our ground defenses, who managed to destroy and down it. It fell as powder set ablaze on the aggressors' heads.

4. Two machineguns and four vehicles were destroyed and eight ammunition dumps blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector. One combat vehicle was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the I Special Army corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Six enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. Moreover, one vehicle-mounted 106-mm gun was destroyed and one ammuniton dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 July 1988

'Thousands' of Iranians Captured

JN1207181388 Baghdad INA in English 1750 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 12, INA—"Thousands of Iranian enemy troops have been captured by victorious Iraqi Armed Forces in the liberation of al-Zubaydat area today," the commander of the Republican Guard Forces Lt Gen Iyad Futayh Khalifah al-Rawi said tonight.

In a congratulatory telegram sent to President Saddam Husayn, Lt Gen Al-Rawi said that huge quantities of enemy weaponry were also seized, many intact.

"Enemy troops in the area were destroyed and those who preferred surrender were captured," the commander said.

Weapons Seized

JN1207182888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 12 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As a result of our heroic forces' drive into the flanks of the enemy troops in the Al-Zubaydat area and as they chased the defeated enemy remnants deep inside its administrative areas and the headquarters of its forces, and also in the directions of the direct offensive, our forces managed to seize huge quantities of weaponry, ammunition, military equipment, and documents left at the enemy's command headquarters.

Among those abandoned by the enemy are numbers of tanks and guns, intact and serviceable guns, as well as thousands of POW's captured.

Several days will be needed to evacuate all this to our national soil before our forces return to their point of departure. We will provide you with details pertaining to all this in statements and clarifications that will be issued latter.

[Dated] 12 July 1988

Iranians Said Fleeing

JN1207194288 Baghdad INA in English 1930 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 12, INA—Iranian enemy troops are in collapse in all operations sectors and are fleeing their positions, leaving behind their equipment, particularly in the sector of the 1st and 5th Army Corps, according to reports reaching Iraq, an Iraqi authoritative spokesman said tonight.

The spokesman reiterated that the enemy has no hope to clinch to a single inch of our national soil and had to respect the way to peace and the rights of Iraq and the Arab nation in order that all live in security and calmness including the peoples of Iran.

Iranian Territory Occupied

JN1307210788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT 12 Jul 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpts] IV Army Corps Command, east of Maysan, 12 Jul (WAKH)—A responsible Iraqi officer has announced the control of the Iraqi Forces over 4,000 square km inside Iranian territory in the wake of the offensive launched today. 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, chief of the Political Orientation Department at the Iraqi Defense Ministry, said this occupation is for technical reasons. He added that the Iraqi Forces will withdraw within a few days. [passage omitted]

Muhsin said at a press conference this evening that Iranian forces held fast to the Al-Zubaydat area because it is rich in oil. He said: With the liberation of 140 km of this area, the Iraqi forces have completed the liberation of all Iraqi territory in the southern sector. [passage omitted]

Muhsin stressed that Iraq will continue its plans to recapture every inch controlled by Iran. He said: Only a little Iraqi territory is still under Iranian control.

The Iraqi officer confirmed the withdrawal of Iranian forces from the city of Halabjah. He said: Iran withdrew from the city, but its forces are still in the area. He added in his statement to the correspondents in Al-'Amarah that Iran withdrew its forces from Halabjah because it knows the size of the forces prepared by Iraq and because it cannot stay there. He added that the Iranians want to avoid a new media scandal on their consecutive military losses.

Concluding his statement to the correspondents, Muhsin said that the Iraqi forces are now evacuating large heavy Iranian equipment, tanks, and artillery from inside Iran. He estimated Iran's human losses at tens of thousands as a result of the offensive launched by the Iraqi Forces. He added that the POW's have not been counted yet but we believe there are thousands. He added that the administrative headquarters of the Iranian Forces inside Iran were also destroyed.

Tank Battalion, Weapons Seized

JN1307055488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2108 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—The INA team in the southern sector has learned that during their triumphant battle in the Al-Zubaydat area the valiant Iraqi forces seized a whole tank battalion and hundreds of personnel carriers and armored vehicles the Iranian enemy left behind after it was expelled from the sacred national soil. The Iraqi forces have also destroyed the 21st and 77th regular divisions, which are considered the backbone of the Iranian regime's forces.

Alignment Launches Knesset Election Campaign
TA1207195988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Today, the Alignment launched its election campaign for the 12th Knesset with a ceremonial rally in Jerusalem. Party Chairman Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that if the Alignment forms the next cabinet it would be prepared to hand control of a demilitarized Gaza over to an Arab leadership. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports:

The Alignment launched its election campaign in Jerusalem. Its campaign will stress what is seen as a fundamental difference between the Alignment and the Likud. These elections are termed here as a historic crossroads in determining Israel's fate and character.

[Begin Peres recording] Today the Likud, Tehiya, and Gush Emunim all form one entity. It is a very extreme, right-wing coalition, an ideological coalition, with only a territorial ideology, with eyes closed to what is happening in the territories. Mr Shamir said yesterday that they will make up for the 4 lost years of settlement. Will this bring peace? Will this guarantee Israel's existence as a Jewish state? Let us be realistic. [end recording]

The speakers at the rally made it clear that the Alignment is now united, with Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin walking hand in hand. On the opposite side is the Likud, divided into rival camps. This is a reinvigorated Alignment with places for women, young members, and representatives of the minorities. This is contrasted to the Likud, which cannot show a representative Knesset list. But, above all, there is the difference in attitude toward the issues concerning our fate.

[Begin Rabin recording] Do we, of our own free will, want a democratic Jewish state or a binational state, a kind of Palestinian-Jewish Lebanon? [end recording]

The style of the campaign—so we were reassured today—will be matter of fact, dealing with issues, not personalities. There will be no dealing in gossip, only in substance. Under this banner the Alignment launched its election campaign for the 12th Knesset.

Peres Commits to Peace Referendum If Labor Wins
TA1307073988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 88 p 1

[ITIM report]

[Text] If Labour wins the elections and forms the next government it will conduct peace negotiations with the Arabs by means of an international "opening," whose results it would then present for approval in a national referendum.

Vice Premier Peres made that commitment when he officially opened the Labour Party's election campaign in Jerusalem yesterday.

Peres said that many public opinion polls had shown that there were Likud supporters who backed the Labour stand on peace negotiations. Thus, the Likud had something to fear from the idea of submitting a final peace proposal to a national referendum.

Peres said the only ideology the Likud has is not to give up an inch of Judaea and Samaria, where Israel is confronted by a million and a half people who oppose its presence there.

He expressed his belief that there were Arabs who were tired of unending wars. He added that King Husayn would be prepared to negotiate with Israel because he knew that if the problem of the West Bank were not solved it would undermine his own regime in Jordan.

Defence Minister Rabin followed Peres and attacked the Likud's positions, which he claimed threatened Israel with "Lebanonization." The very striving for peace contained within itself a very important potential for Israel's security, he asserted.

Shamir Popularity Rising; Peres Support 'Stable'
TA1107133688 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Jul 88 p A9

[Text] The Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute directed by Dr Rahel Yisra'eli conducted a public opinion poll during the second half of June to check the popularity of key Cabinet ministers. One of the questions asked was: "Who do you think is best suited to be prime minister?" The findings of the current poll, quoted in percentage points, as well as the results of the polls conducted in March, April, and May are given in the following table.

	June 88	May 88	April 88	March 88
Peres	35.4	38.2	36.2	35.4
Shamir	31.8	30.2	29.5	27.3
Rabin	3.4	4.1	4.6	5.0
Sharon	2.9	4.0	4.1	6.8
Kahane	1.4	1.1	2.1	not polled
Arens	2.5	1.8	1.9	not polled
Levi	1.5	1.5	0.9	not polled
Netanyahu	1.2	1 percent	1 percent	not polled
Menahem Begin	1.3	0.9	1.0	not polled
Others	3.9	7.2	7.4	12.2
No candidate	14.7	11.0	12.3	13.3

The small differences among the candidates can be attributed to a margin of error in the polling, and do not necessarily attest to differences in the popularity of the men.

At the same time, the findings denote an ascending trend in Shamir's popularity and stable support for Peres.

In order to get a more accurate picture, the popularity of Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir was polled among voters of each of the two parties.

The findings show that the differences among Herut's key camps are reflected in the fact that the number of the Likud voters who support Shamir's candidacy for the premiership totals only 73 percent, whereas 84 percent of the Alignment voters support Peres.

Romanian Envoy Reports 'New' PLO Autonomy Stand

TA1007053888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The PLO is willing to engage in direct negotiations with Israel aimed at achieving an autonomy-style interim arrangement, sources in Jerusalem said last night. The sources said that Romanian envoy Constantin Mitea reported to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the new PLO position following talks held in Bucharest recently between President Nicolae Ceausescu and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat's position as presented by Mitea might present a significant shift in PLO policies. The document written by PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif which was distributed at last month's Algiers summit also spoke of direct negotiations but has not been publicly endorsed by 'Arafat.

According to Mitea, 'Arafat told Ceausescu that following the institution of an interim settlement based on the general lines of the Camp David autonomy agreement, Israel and the Palestinians would conduct negotiations on the final settlement within the framework of an international conference.

Mitea urged both Shamir and Peres to conduct negotiations with the PLO. Shamir rejected the suggestion outright, while Peres reacted guardedly, saying that Israel will not conduct negotiations with "terror organizations," but is willing to hold talks with inhabitants of the territories.

Mitea invited both Peres and Shamir to visit Romania, and both accepted, although it was unclear whether such visits will take place before the elections. Both Shamir and Peres had rejected an earlier invitation by Ceausescu to visit Romania this week, leading to the decision to dispatch Mitea to the area.

Official Criticizes Saudi Arms Deal to UK Envoy

TA1207102388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, held a meeting this morning with British Ambassador to Israel Mark Elliot [title as heard] in which he criticized the British-Saudi arms deal. Beilin pointed out that the sale of offensive weapons to countries in a state of war with Israel affects us and the entire region. The British ambassador said that as a condition of the deal, Britain insisted that the arms supplied to Saudi Arabia not be transferred to any third party. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the meeting had been scheduled before the new arms deal was made public.

Rabin Cited on 'Confrontation' in Territories

TA1207125788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that we are in a situation of confrontation with most of the population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The IDF's main effort in the territories is handling the violence. The minister confirmed that during the last few days several serious incidents have taken place in Samaria, particularly in Nabulus. According to him, these incidents do not mean that the situation in the territories has become more difficult. They are merely incidents the IDF eventually managed to handle properly. The minister added that he does not see a significant drop in the frequency of stonethrowings or firebomb attacks.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the defense minister toured Hebron today and spoke to soldiers and local residents. Later he visited Halhul, Bethlehem, and Bayt Sahur, which has been under curfew for 6 straight days.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Policemen, 2 Girls Injured

TA1207102288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Four policemen who were escorting Arab prisoners sustained light injuries after being attacked near the district court on Salah al-Din Street in Jerusalem by dozens of the prisoners' relatives. The policemen chased their assailants and arrested six suspects. The assailants used blunt objects and may also have used a knife.

Shortly afterward, a No 27 bus driving down Salah al-Din was pelted with stones and some of its windows were shattered. Two girls aboard the bus were slightly injured by stones and glass shards.

'Terrorist' Homes Demolished

TA1307043288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Last night the security forces demolished the homes of members of a terrorist gang recently captured in the villages of Ra's Karkar and Al-Janiyah in the Ramallah region. They are suspected of throwing a firebomb at an IDF patrol last month. The explosive hit an IDF jeep, wounding two officers. They are also suspected of throwing firebombs at IDF patrols near the village of Ra's Karkar some 4 months ago and 2 months ago.

'Terrorist' Band Uncovered

TA1307085188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist band in the village of Irtah in the Tulkarm area. The gang members are suspected of stoning a bus traveling through the village, smashing its windshield. In another incident, they stopped an Israeli bus, smashed its windows, ordered the driver and passengers off, and burned the vehicle using gasoline. The homes of three members of the gang were sealed this morning.

Uprising Costs IDF NIS 270 Million Since Dec

TA1107082988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish, Joel Greenberg, and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Defence Minister Yitzaq Rabin said that the Arab uprising has directly cost the defence establishment over NIS [new Israeli shekels] 270 million since last December. He revealed this figure at the weekly cabinet session after Minister-Without-Portfolio Yiga'el Hurvitz said that ministers and IDF generals should stop making public statements about the damage the violence has caused Israel.

Economics Minister Gad Ya'aqobi, taking the issue further, declared that the overall cost to the national economy, over and above defence expenditure and including the effect on exports, production and tourism was close to NIS 1 billion.

In reply to a question, Rabin took pains to correct the impression left by the OC [Officer Commanding] Central Command Aluf [Major General] 'Amram Mitzna' last week, that the IDF was readying itself for many more years of turmoil in the territories. Rabin claimed that what Mitzna' had told defence correspondents at a briefing was that even if the level of Arab unrest in the territories came down to what it was before last December 9, security incidents which still took place would continue to be labeled "intifada" [uprising]. [passage omitted]

In another development, the IDF has appointed a Military Police major to advise OC Central Command on cases of alleged excesses by troops. The officer is to make a preliminary investigation of such allegations and advise whether a formal Military Police investigation should be opened. Until now, such charges have been checked by specially appointed investigating officers. [passage omitted]

Media Reports 'Small Portion' of Violence

TA1107090788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 88 p 4

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Israeli public is being informed of only a small portion of the violent incidents in the territories, the Foreign Ministry Executive was told on Friday. The weekly ministry executive meeting was devoted on Friday to a report by a Foreign Ministry official who recently completed 62 days of reserve duty in Gaza as a company commander.

The reserve officer said that the media reports only 10-15 per cent of the violent incidents which occur in the territories. He said that the scope of the incidents was too large for the media to cope with. He added that while the number of incidents in the territories was smaller than in recent months, they had become better organized and more violent.

He said that Israeli countermeasures were mainly effective against children and adults over the age of 35, whereas the population which was carrying out the uprising was in the 15-35 age bracket.

He gave his opinion that the use of rubber bullets and tear gas was largely ineffective, and that the IDF employed these measures only to "go though the motions," before firing live ammunition, which was effective. Also highly effective were the newly-issued batons because they usually caused fractures which incapacitated stone throwers for several months.

Records of 6 Arab Detainees Said 'Disappeared'

TA1107130688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The records of at least six inhabitants of the territories who were arrested have "disappeared" and a clear answer as to their whereabouts and the charges against them could not be obtained. All attempts to secure a reply from the military Advocate General's office or other military elements have been in vain. The replies received indicate that they may also be incapable of locating them.

These are the names of the six "disappeared":

—Nasir Muhammad Qaddah of Gaza, who was arrested on 30 June and has since then vanished.

—Muhammad Salah Hassasna from the village of Al-'Ubaydiyat. He was first arrested on 26 May and taken to the Al-Zahiriyah lock-up facility. There has been no trace of him since 9 June, and as of 22 June he also stopped appearing in the listings of the Red Cross.

—Isma'il Suwayti, who was arrested on 4 June.

—Sulayman Suwayti, Isma'il's son.

—Shakir Suwayti, who was arrested on 21 June.

The three members of the Suwayti family worked for a security and maintenance company at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

—Musa Mahmud 'Abd al-Latif Rajanam, who was arrested in the village of Al-'Arrub on 13 June.

Knesset Member [MK] 'Oded Zucker gave the names of the six along with their identity card numbers to the control center for detainees set up by the IDF's Central Command. On 27 June, before he received any information about their whereabouts, he was informed that the control center had been closed down and that he should approach the Central Command's deputy adjutant.

Two days after receiving the information about the "disappeared," the deputy adjutant, Colonel A'mit Shapira, informed him that he could not give any data to civilians and advised MK Zucker to approach Hayim Yisra'eli at the Defense Ministry.

It appears that in many cases the military authorities in charge of the detainees are unaware of vital information. For example, on more than one occasion the military Advocate General's office said its records showed a certain man had been released on bail. Although the man was actually still under arrest, the advocate's office had not been informed. In other cases the office did not know where detainees were being kept, and it got the information from civilian bodies.

IDF Denies Allegation

TA1207120088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] "No Judaea, Samaria, or Gaza resident detained by the security forces has disappeared, and the IDF has complete information on each detainee, including his whereabouts at any given time."

These remarks constitute the reaction of senior officers to Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker's allegation that at least six residents have disappeared after being detained by the security forces.

A few minutes after the report was published in one of the morning papers, the Central Command officers released the exact location of all six, whose names had been published. IDF sources said yesterday that public figures, who are responsible to their constituents, should double-check their information through the appropriate channels prior to the hasty publication of unverified material.

'Radical' Israeli Arab Organization Reviewed

TA1107152488 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jul 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Yoram Hamizrahi]

[Text] Most of the cases of arson and terrorist acts within the Green Line boundaries are initiated by radical Israeli Arabs, members and supporters of the Sons of the Village organization.

This is the conclusion reached by the security bodies investigating the occurrence of arsons and firebombs outside the territories, mainly in Galilee.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently signed administrative detention orders connected with the Sons of the Village organization's subversive activities. One of the recent detainees is Ghassan 'Ata Mallah, 27, from the village of Al-Reina, who is one of the organization's activists and who had by another order been forbidden to leave the village. He has been detained several times on suspicion of participation in hostile activities.

A senior official dealing with Israeli Arab affairs says that an analysis of nearly 1,000 incidents and events involving arson and assault inside the Green Line boundaries in recent months, and the investigation of suspects detained in connection with some of these events, indicate that "the arson is carried out as part of the cooperation between radical sectors among Israeli Arabs and the leaders of the intifada [uprising] in the territories who are members of Fatah and George Habash's Popular Front."

Security establishment officials believe that the individuals behind the arson are supporters of the radical organization. Branches and sub-cells of this organization operate under various names in the Triangle and Galilee population centers.

Security sources have said that the nationalistic organizations popular with the Arab population, such as RAKAH, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Muslim Brothers supporters, reject violence as a way of struggle and opt for the method of moral political identification with the intifada. These organizations keep well away from the "red line" separating political identification from illegal acts.

The security sources believe that contrary to the abovementioned bodies, the Sons of the Village organization denies the very existence of the State of Israel, does not recognize the Green Line, and fully identifies with the PLO. Their main centers are in the villages of Al-Tira, Al-Taiyiba, and Umm al-Fahm, with smaller branches and cells in other northern settlements, including the area of Haifa.

It seems that the Sons of the Village cells also operate among the Bedouins in the Negev. Among the organizations considered to be influenced by the Sons of the Village are the Sons of Al-Tira; the Al-Ansar, or Avengers, organization, based in Umm al-Fahm; and the Nahda, or Awakening, organization in the village of Al-Taiyiba.

The security sources believe that several hundred Israeli Arabs are currently active in the Sons of the Village, mostly professional people with a good education who believe that "shifting the violence into Israel is a direct part of the intifada." The task of the investigators is very difficult due to the fact that the Sons of the Village supporters carry out their various activities in secrecy and operate through underground cells.

Some of the investigators believe that the elements related to the Sons of the Village or to their sister cells also deal with the transfer of funds from Israeli Arabs to the intifada leaders in the territories.

One of the Sons of the Village leaders and its recognized "senior ideologist" is Raja Ghabariyah from Umm al-Fahm, who has been under administrative detention for some time now under the suspicion of incitement during the Land Day events [30 March].

A senior source has said that the organization is undergoing an internal crisis caused by ideological differences, principally between the supporters of 'Arafat and those of Habash. It seems that in at least some of the initiated incidents of arson, the organization used minors who acted for a fee paid according to a "chain payment" method, which is difficult to trace.

In the meantime, the police are investigating last week's fire near the village of 'Ilut, in the vicinity of Nazareth. This fire, suspected as a Sons of the Village operation, burned out several hundred pine trees. The fire trucks summoned to the site were obliged to remove stone barriers placed on the road.

Group Denies Criminal Acts

TA1207132288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jul 88 p 17

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas and Alex Fishman]

[Excerpt] Security sources yesterday expressed surprise at publications stating that the Israeli-Arab Sons of the Village organization is responsible for acts of arson and terrorism recently carried out in Galilee. The sources stressed that they have no information regarding any such involvement, and they do not know on what information the publication was based. They said that no investigation or detentions have been carried out in connection with this matter, and no administrative detention orders have been issued against any Arab citizens of Israel in this context. They also said that the administrative detention order against Ghassan 'Ata Mallah is not connected with arson, and that according to what is known so far, the incidents of arson are the unorganized acts of hooliganism perpetrated by minors.

Sons of the Village members yesterday published a manifesto in which they vehemently denied the publications accusing them of organizing the recent wave of arson. The Sons of the Village claim that the publication intended to harm their movement, which acts within the framework of the law. One of the movement's activists, Mash'ur Taha, expressed the concern that this was the first attempt at harassment by the authorities.

This harassment is aimed at launching a process which will be completed when the movement is outlawed. Taha further said that the movement members have never been detained or questioned with regard to arson or other illegal acts within the Green Line boundaries. The members, who gathered yesterday in Nazareth, noted that their struggle is a political one and is carried out within the framework of the law. [passage omitted]

Official Signs New Aid Protocol With Zaire

TA1107090488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir last week signed a protocol with Zaire which, he says, will serve as a "new and healthy" base for relations between the two countries.

Zaire had complained vigorously that Israel was not living up to prior commitments for financial aid and other forms of assistance.

The protocol, signed in Zaire by Tamir and a Zaire vice foreign minister, promises continued military assistance and supplies; the implementation of a previously pledged $8 million loan; and agricultural assistance and technical courses worth $1 million dollars over the next two years.

Tamir said last night that his visit was "highly successful." He said that Israel and Zaire had agreed on the method of keeping track of the details of the protocol, which was "much more realistic" than general commitments undertaken in the past.

Tamir also met with a high-ranking Nigerian official in Zaire, as well as holding talks in Nairobi. But his plans to visit a country which does not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel fell through at the last minute.

Hungarian Leader 'Shares' Peres' Views on Region

TA1007175488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The Hungarian Communist Party leader, Karoly Grosz, has written to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres saying that he thanks him for his invitation to visit Israel, which he intends to accept as soon as progress is

made in the peace process. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Grosz' letter was relayed to the Israeli Foreign Ministry by the Hungarian interests office in Tel Aviv. Grosz further wrote that he shares Shim'on Peres' views on regional issues, as expressed during the latter's visit to Budapest.

Jewish Agency Chairman Meets Hungary's Varkonyi

TA0707125288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 88 p 3

[Report by Jerusalem-based correspondent]

[Text] Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz yesterday met with Hungarian Foreign Minister Varkonyi. The 1-hour conversation was conducted in a friendly atmosphere. The Hungarian foreign minister stated that the normalization process and the improvement of diplomatic relations with Israel will increase.

He further said that the political developments in the Middle East are what helped to accelerate the normalization process with Israel. He expressed the hope that it would be possible to find a way to accelerate the political process in the region.

Dinitz thanked the Hungarian minister for the special reception he was accorded during his visit to Hungary, and mentioned the need to convene an international conference as the opening stage for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

The Hungarian foreign minister explained his government's stand, saying that political solutions should not be forced on the parties to the conflict and that negotiations should be achieved while observing the sovereignty and political rights of the two sides. Hungary pledged not to support any arrangement harming Israel's security interests.

Dinitz thanked the Hungarian minister for his warm remarks and repeated an invitation to visit Israel.

Yesterday the Jewish Agency chairman arrived in Bucharest, where he is to participate in events celebrating Romanian Chief Rabbi Rosen's 40th year in office. Dinitz will address the local Jewish community, as well as diaspora Jewry representatives due to arrive in Romania.

Industrial Exports Increase in 1st Half of 1988

TA1007164288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] According to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics, exports totaled $4.8 billion in the first 6 months of 1988 and increased by 23 percent compared with the same period last year. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein points out that industrial exports rose by 27 percent, while agricultural exports registered a drop of 6 percent.

Abu Sharif Document Said Palestinian 'Peace Plan'

TA1207143988 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 9 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Confronting the Palestinian Document"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government cannot continue ignoring the document of Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's press aide. This document has imposed itself on both U.S. and Israeli public opinion. Observers note that the "new reality" brought about by the Palestinian document will necessarily be reflected, through public opinion, in the upcoming elections in Israel and the United States.

On another level, questions are continuing to pursue Palestinian officials themselves as to what extent this document represents the PLO viewpoint of a political solution to the problem. Zuhdi al-Tarazi, the Palestinian delegate at the United Nations, answered some of these questions 2 days ago in New York. He affirmed that since the document was originally presented, together with the Palestinian file documents and papers, to the Arab summit in Algiers, it does in fact express the viewpoint of the PLO.

Al-Tarazi, mocking those who call for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to put his signature on this document in order to underscore its credibility, said: They should not expect us to issue a document under oath. By this he meant that the release of this document by 'Arafat's press aide was sufficient for a response and serious and official treatment everywhere, particularly in the United States and Israel.

Will the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government respond to this approach? It is not easy to give a definite answer to this question yet. The Israeli parties, however, particularly at a time of escalating election fever, will find themselves forced to include this document in their political debates. Some concerned Israelis have already publicly called for this in some Israeli newspapers, and observers anticipate that this call will grow and become stronger in the coming days.

This is especially true considering that this document is the first, clearest, and most significant Palestinian "peace plan" to be issued by the PLO. It is a plan with a direct approach to Israel and the United States, as well as to every party that is interested in a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Paper Sees U.S.-Syrian-Israeli Plot in Lebanon

TA1207163088 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jul 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Damascus, Washington, and Tel Aviv"]

[Text] The dimensions of the Syrian conspiracy against the Palestinian presence in the Lebanese arena is being revealed day by day. This conspiracy began with the concealment of the Syrian regime behind a reviled

person who lost his way and plunged into the morass of apostasy and treason. This person helped to achieve what neither Israel, nor all the mercenary puppets, could achieve during the previous years. He forced the Palestinians to abandon Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah after subjecting these camps to artillery shelling that resulted in the death of women, children, and old people.

News reports indicate the existence of a U.S.-Israeli-Syrian agreement calling for the evacuation of the inhabitants of the three refugee camps in Beirut—Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah—to either an area northeast of Lebanon near the Syrian border called "Wadi Khalid," or to the Al-Azraq region in East Jordan. Jordanian agreement to this plan, however, has not yet been secured.

In light of this definite information, the Lebanese arena is about to undergo a severe conflagration, the perpetrators of which seek to expand their influence over the entire Lebanese territory. Those who are aware of the fabric and complexity of the Lebanese scene, however, believe that Syria's intent to once again ignite the situation in Lebanon constitutes an adventure with unforeseeable consequences. This is due to the fact that conditions in Lebanon resemble a moving sand dune burying almost anyone wandering into its path.

The new visit which Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, plans to make on the eve of the Lebanese presidential election further reveals the dimensions of the U.S.-Syrian-Israeli scheme.

Murphy will be coming to Damascus only to be assured of the success of the first step of the conspiracy. He will pat the president, the generals, and the colonels on the back and confer upon them the highest awards of treason in recognition and appreciation for the role they played, and their speed and accuracy, in action against "'Arafat's group" which was expelled from Beirut to Sidon.

Murphy's upcoming visit to the region is no more than a new declaration by the U.S.-Syrian-Israeli tripartite to launch a new offensive in the region. The new offensive seeks to strike at the PLO's political and military presence in Lebanon and foil the uprising. Its aim is to impose an American peace with the Syrian stick in Lebanon, and the Israeli stick in the occupied territories.

'Cause for Concern' Seen in Saudi Arms Deal

TA1107133388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 88 p 9

[Editorial: "An Assessment of the Situation That Does Not Justify Hysteria"]

[Text] What does Saudi Arabia need 48 Tornado jet fighters, 60 Hawk-200 training aircraft, and 80 Westland airplanes for? Assuming that the trauma of the mines planted in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war justifies the inclusion of six minesweepers in the large arms deal the Saudis have just signed with the British Government: Do the defense needs to counter Khomeyni and the Khomeyniistic regime really require that Saudi Arabia maintain an air force that includes 300 sophisticated jet fighters?

It is hard to answer these questions in the affirmative. Even those who do not suspect that Saudi Arabia plans to attack Israel, either of its own initiative or by joining a war launched by any other Arab country, cannot remain apathetic to such an ambitious plan for the expansion and modernization of the Saudi Air Force. Neither is there consolation in the thought that years may pass before the Saudi Air Force receives all the equipment it has ordered. Its operational readiness is at some point slated to move from the realm of expectations to practice, and the IDF must take this fact into account in its strategic plans.

This assessment of the situation does not justify the hysteria, the hue and cry, that the Tornadoes pose more of a threat to Israel than the medium-range ballistic missiles, although it is admittedly true that a plane that has not been shot down can once again take off and drop bombs, whereas a missile that has been launched is finished. It is clear, however, that the strengthening of an Arab air force which has not been considered a top-rate military force to date gives us cause for concern.

The British Government, which has never displayed generosity toward Israel in terms of arms supplies and which has maintained an official embargo since the outbreak of the Lebanese war, is not likely to be impressed by the displeasure voiced in Jerusalem over the reported deal. Most probably it is very pleased about a deal that secures employment for its arms industry and drives the military industries of other countries out of the competition. Although the allegations made by U.S. officials who accuse Congress—and indirectly, albeit quite transparently, the pro-Israeli AIPAC [American Israel Political Action Committee] lobby—of undermining U.S. industries are somewhat exaggerated, there may be a grain of truth to it, and this feeling will create a resentment which we will be hard put to dissipate.

Israel cannot curb the armament craze which afflicts all Third World countries and is being encouraged by the superpowers in order to provide employment for millions of workers. The demand for aircraft, tanks, missiles, and other weapons systems encourages industry to enlarge its collection and compete for lucrative transactions. From the political point of view, we had better not forget that our American friends see Saudi Arabia as a non-aggressive, "moderate" factor. Although the defense establishment should develop and boost the IDF's ability, we should keep our tongues in check lest we are seen as spoiling for a fight.

Al-Masri Returns to Amman From Morocco Visit

JN0907113688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman last night from Morocco after a visit of several days, during which he conveyed a letter from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan. Al-Masri also talked with his Moroccan counterpart, Abdellatif Filali, on regional developments and bilateral ties.

Foreign Minister Receives UN's Goulding

JN1107160588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received Marrack Goulding, UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, in his office today. They reviewed the developments in the Arab and international arenas with respect to the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause.

Al-Masri explained the Algiers summit resolutions and the united Arab position on the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference. He also explained the illegal measures the occupation authorities continue to practice against the Arab inhabitants—measures that violate international law and conventions as well as resolutions issued by the UN Security council.

The two officials also exchanged viewpoints on the Moscow summit results, the relaxation in international relations, and their effect on regional conflicts, particularly that of the Middle East, and the question of holding an international peace conference.

The Jordanian permanent representative to the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, and the director of the International Organizations Department attended the meeting.

Official Comments on Israeli Travel Restrictions

JN1107162288 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jul 88, p 1, 17

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Government is holding continuing contacts with international organizations and bodies and friendly and brotherly countries to explain the implications of the latest Israeli decision, which prevents children born outside the occupied territories from returning with their fathers.

A senior, responsible source told AL-DUSTUR that this despotic Israeli decision aims at emptying the land of its people and harms more than 100,000 to 150,000 Palestiniasn working abroad.

The source estimated the number of Palestinian mothers turned back by the occupation authorities from King Husayn and Prince Muhammad Bridges with their children at more than 50 citizens.

The source stressed that it is important for the citizen to make several attempts to return and to fulfill all conditions of crossing so that the occupation authorities can not find an excuse to turn him back.

Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, emphasized the importance of action in both the international and Arab arenas, direct contact with friendly governments, and of demanding an emergency session of the Security Council to put an end to these Israeli measures.

The Palestinian official described this measure thus: "Shamir started the war of the camps for us," referring to the forced exodus which Israel practised against the Palestinian people in 1948 and 1967.

Milhim added that the Israeli enemy is presently heading toward doing everything that will lead to the citizens' leaving their land. He said that the kinfolk in the in the occupied teritories will remain rooted in their land like the olive trees.

Infighting 'Stab in the Back' of 'Revolution'

JN0907074888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jul 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Uprising and the Dangers of Diverting Attention"]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian Arab people's flaming revolution in the occupied territory is not served by the outside Palestinian infighting, regardless of its causes and excuses. In fact, that infighting is a big stab in the back for this revolution.

If Israel with all its terrorist plans has not been able to stop or liquidate the revolution, it is only conceivable to say that pan-Arab duty demands that we avoid actions, such as the outside infighting, that divert attention from it, or serve the plans of the enemies and enable them to get out of their dilemmas.

Palestinian and Arab action must be geared toward serving the revolution of the kinfolk in the occupied territory and enabling them to firmly confront policies aimed at obliterating their identity, confiscating their lands, and destroying their institutions. [passage omitted]

The inter-Palestinain differences, which have now taken the form of a destructive and ruinous war in the camps in Lebanon, are harming the uprising just as the enemies do when they try by every posssible means to abort and besiege this uprising. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people's brave revolution and its heroes, who are throwing stones in occupied Palestine to dissipate the darkness and Zionist oppression—this brave revolution and its Palestinian and Arab people cannot but view with suspicion all those elements seeking to cast a shadow on what is taking place in the occupied territory and divert attention to other developments, regardless of whether or not these sides are aware of what they are doing.

The Palestine question, the central Arab issue, will remain greater than all the slogans and excuses and will continue to demand all Palestinian, Arab, and international efforts, which call for peace for the sake of its service and victory.

The Palestinian question, which is currently experiencing its resurrection through the wide international support it has achieved, must not be aborted or harmed by what is going on.

Paper Finds Israeli Missile Worries 'Ironic'

JN1007074088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Security From Justice, not Arms"]

[Text] The threat of the season for the Israelis, according to the news reports we read, is the long-range missile capabiliy that several Arab states are obtaining.

For the past month, it has been hard to read a news report about Israel without coming across dire Israeli warnings about the threats to Israel's security posed by Syrian and Iraqi acquisition of long-range surface-to-surface missiles, which, the Israelis add, could be equipped with chemical weapon warheads.

Israel and the United States agreed last week to work together to develop an anti-missile system to ward off this new danger, while the Israelis are hard at work diplomatically trying to dissuade the manufacturers of such missiles, reportedly the Soviet Union and China, from selling them to the Arab states. We find it ironic—though typical—that Israel should be hauling in the United States and its money to deal with the symptoms of a problem, rather than with its causes.

If the Israelis really wanted to assure their security, the best way to do so would be for them to sit down with the PLO and the concerned Arab states and work out a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Once the Palestinians have secured their national rights, and once the Arab states do not have to deal with an Israel that occupies their territory or threatens their national interests, then there would be no more reason for Arabs to fight Israelis or for Israelis to fight Arabs.

The equation is very simple, and as ancient as humankind. Where justice prevails, peace is assured. Where justice is denied, or land is occupied, or national rights are curtailed, the human spirit will fight back until the wrong is redressed. The Israelis cannot expect to be able to dictate terms to the Arabs, or to our arms suppliers, forever. They should recognise that security comes from justice, and not from arms.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Arms Sales Policy

JN1107072588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Holds No Monopoly in Arms"]

[Text] Saudi-American relations may or may not have been hurt by Riyadh's decision to turn to Britain for arms worth tens of billions of dollars, but there is no denying the fact that it was a stinging blow to the American defence industry.

Adding insult to injury to American arms manufacturers was Thursday's American Senate vote to strip Maverick missiles from the proposed $1.9 billion arms package for Kuwait since it has raised the strong possibility that Kuwait may follow Saudi Arabia's example and turn to non-American sources for its defence needs.

Accusations and recriminations flying between the White House and Congress over arms sales to Arab states fool no one, and are of no practical use, either to the countries that have real defence needs or to American military manufacturers who seek new foreign orders. More than anything else, the American taxpayer and the millions of unemployed Americans are the real victims of the political manoeuvrings of their own elected representatives who invoke the stale theory that arms sales to any Arab state pose a potential threat to Israel's security.

Very conveniently ignored is the reality that it is Israel which holds the sole record of occupying, and repeated armed incursions into, Arab territories; and, if anything, it is the Arab side that needs protection from the predatory paws of the Zionist state.

We take heart from the Saudi decision to acquire its defence needs from a non-American source, if only because it is a strong signal to Washington and to the American public that the United States of America holds no monopoly in arms trade, and can no longer use arms sales as a tool to secure political leverage with the Arabs.

At the same time, we also hope that American voters would realise that their own lawmakers are the culprits, and would move to ensure that their future representatives will protect the economic as well as political interests of their country in the Middle East and elsewhere.

It should not be a hard job, since all that the Middle East needs is the implementation of the lofty American principles of liberty, fraternity, freedom and self-determination for all people.

Paper Comments on Israeli Deportation Measures

JN1107083588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Jul 88, p 1, 17

[Editorial: "A Futile Weapon To Stop the Uprising"]

[Text] The oppressive Israeli decision to deport 10 new Palestinian citizens from the West Bank and Gaza Strip comes as a disgraceful violation of the most basic human rights.

It is also a rude Zionist challenge to the international community's will, to United Nations legislation, and to international laws and agreements which do not allow an occpying power to carry out such reprehensible criminal acts.

This measure—which Israel has repeatedly applied ever since the uprising started—indicates a lack of Israeli understanding of the course of current events in the occupied territories. The concerned Israeli authorities still believe that it is possible to quell the revolution of stones simply by deporting what it calls leaders and organizers of the campaign of violations of peace and order.

This deportation policy is condemned by the widest possible range of international opinion. It has failed previously to limit the intensification of the uprising or to contain its renewed effectiveness. Despite this, the Zionist enemy leaders who aim to empty the occupied territories of their legal residents continue to follow this plan and measure Arab and international reactions each time, before embarking on a more widespread and comprehensive version of this policy.

There is no doubt that the U.S. failure in the security council to condemn previous Israeli deportation operations has encouraged Tel Aviv to follow this line again. Washington criticizes this policy verbally, but then offers the total and necessary political cover to support it without punishing Israel for its policy.

The deportation policy which has resurfaced through the most recent Israeli decision requires a decisive Arab and international response to oppose such widely condemned Israeli acts.

Perhaps all this begins and ends by talking to the United States and asking it persistently to remain true to its international obligations as a superpower, starting with preventing Israeli leaders from continuing these inhuman measures, and not just condemning them verbally and then providing Israel with practical political cover.

Resistance Halts Israeli Advance Into Bra'shit

NC1207124388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The occupation forces and their agents shelled the town of Bra'shit from their positions on the hills overlooking the town today. The town of Haddathah also came under bombardment. At noon, the occupation forces attempted to advance from their Bayt Yahun position in the direction of Bra'shit. Resistance fighters and the town's inhabitants confronted them. A clash involving the use of various types of weapons ensued. As a result of the clash, the Israeli advance was halted.

SLA Position Attacked

NC1207155188 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] post overlooking Bra'shit has come under 60-mm and 81-mm mortar and RPG fire. The soldiers manning the post returned the fire with appropriate weapons, silencing its source. There were no casualties in the SLA, and losses among the aggressors are not known.

'Fierce Battles'

LD1207163688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1506 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 12 (KUNA)—Lebanese resistance commandos Tuesday aborted an invasion attempt by an Israeli armoured unit into the south Lebanon village of Bra'shit and damaged two vehicles, Lebanese sources said.

They told KUNA that the commandos engaged the Israeli force in fierce battles involving field artillery, rocket propelled grenades and machine-guns.

Witnesses said the resistance fighters destroyed two armoured vehicles with rockets when the attacking force attempted to advance on the village.

Local residents said Bra'shit came under heavy artillery shelling from Israeli positions on hilltops overlooking the village after the Israeli retreat.

In a related development, the new Swedish commander of United Nations interim force in south Lebanon (UNIFIL) called on Israel to withdraw its occupation forces from south Lebanon.

He stressed that south Lebanon would not enjoy peace until Israel had pulled out from the border strip it is occupying since 1982 on the pretence of its security requirements.

Intensive Shelling

NC1207162988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Most houses in Bra'shit have been demolished, and it is feared it may become another Maydun, according to a security source in the South summarizing the tragic situation in southern Bra'shit. The town had earlier been shelled continuously for 3 hours by Israeli artillery emplacements on the hills surrounding the town, and shelling resumed at 1630 today.

UNIFIL official Timor Goksel has reported that unknown persons fired two RPG's at a position held by the agent Lahd militia in Tallat Bra'shit. Troops manning the position responded by firing 90 shells at Bra'shit. This shelling hit several positions of UNIFIL's Irish contingent. An Irish officer has said it is difficult to determine the number of casualties in view of the intensive bombardment and the intervention of Israeli helicopters in the fighting.

According to the NNA correspondent in Tyre, the International Red Cross made two attempts to enter Bra'shit and evacuate the wounded, but these attempts failed because of the intensive shelling. A Red Cross source noted that one shell falls on the town every 5 minutes. [passage omitted] The Israeli bombardment of Bra'shit started at 1130 today from positions overlooking the town. The Israelis also shelled Haddathah. [passage omitted] Amal Movement sources report that the shelling of Bra'shit stopped at 1325, but resumed at 1630. The sources report that an enemy tank was observed to overturn while attempting to enter the town.

At 1700 the Lebanese Resistance Brigades returned the fire of the enemy forces who shelled Shaqrah and Bra'shit between 1700 and 1800 today. The enemy forces also shelled 'Arab Salim, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jarju' at 1800. The shelling was continuing as the evening news bulletin was being prepared.

Israeli troop concentrations have been observed on the hills overlooking Tibnin. Israeli tanks stationed on Al-Ahmadiyah Hill in western Al-Biqa' fired several shells at Maydun and the Al-Litani River area. The bombardment caused only property damage. [passage omitted]

15 Israeli, Lahd Forces Killed

NC1207193288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] According to the latest information received from Bra'shit, violent clashes have been raging between groups of the Lebanese Resistance-Amal and the Islamic resistance, and the Zionist enemy and his agents in and around Bra'shit since 1820 today. The number of casualties could not be determined because of the intensity of the shelling.

The areas around the towns of Shaqra, Tibin, and Qabrikha have also been bombarded. Israeli helicopters have participated in combing the towns of Bra'shit and Shaqra.

Sources of the Irish UNIFIL contingent have reported that over 300 shells fell on the town of Bra'shit. The same sources said that 15 Israeli soldiers and agent Lahd militiamen were killed and 2 enemy vehicles burned in the operation carried out by resistance fighters at the southern entrance to Bra'shit.

Saudi Arabia Criticized for Denying Hajj Visas

LD1207173788 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 12, IRNA—The committee of Lebanon's hajj caravan leaders deplored the Saudi regime's anti-Islamic act of obstructing Lebanese pilgrims from visiting holy Mecca.

In its statement the commitee said the Saudi regime has tightened issuance of visas to Lebanese pilgrims contrary to all Islamic principles. Riyadh is violating the tenets of Islam by preventing Muslims from performing the annual hajj pilgrimage to Allah's house, it added.

The statement condemning the sacrilegious act called on Saudi officials to desist from mischiefs. "If they don't", it warned, "they will receive a suitable answer."

According to reports the Saudi Embassy in Syria has issued visas to only 14 pilgrims out of a total of 350 applicants from two caravans. Five of the visa recipients are fairly old people.

As the pilgrimage draws nearer, hundreds of hajj visa applicants are still awaiting visas from the Saudi Embassy in Damascus, with little or no hope.

Fatah Reportedly Establishes Positions in South

NC1207121588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] According to information received from the South, members of 'Arafat's Fatah have started to establish artillery positions and new rocket launchers in the vicinity of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al Miyah Wa Miyah camps, particularly on the hills overlooking the Amal Movement's positions in Maghdushah, Zighdraya, and Kafr Hata.

The pro-'Arafat fighters have reportedly rejected a request to reinforce the joint security force in charge of the camps in the South. The request had been made by the pro-Syrian PNSF and the Al-Sa'iqah organization. Consultations are still underway to reach a formula to maintain security in the region.

Fadlallah Comments on Talks With Syria's Al-Asad

NC1207173988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who met with President al-Asad for 4 hours yesterday, has disclosed to the international news agency [Wakalat al-Anba' al-Duwaliyah] that during their meeting they assessed the Syrian initiative and the Syrian Army's entrance into the southern suburb, which curbed fighting and established balanced security.

He said: It was a useful visit during which we and President al-Asad, who thinks strategically, discussed fateful issues. Our talks also dealt with ways to confront current developments by unifying all efforts to face fateful deadlines in Lebanon and the region.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Southern Suburb

NC1307052888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Amal gunmen fired at Hizballah official Al-Hajj Ghurayyib as he was passing by one of the Amal Movement centers in the Al-Hajjaj area of Al-Shiyah at dawn today. A clash ensued in which one of Ghurayyib's companions was injured and subsequently admitted to the Al-Sharq al-Awsat hospital. Tension now prevails in the area.

Amal Tries To Get Israeli Pilot From Ex-Member

NC1307075088 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Jul 88 p 6

[Text] Amal Movement leaders are still attempting to get the captured Israeli pilot back from Mustafa al-Dirani, former Amal Central Security chief. The movement's leaders say that the pilot should be held by the movement who captured him.

Al-Dirani was given charge of the pilot as part of his duties when he was still working for Amal, and he cannot therefore hold on to the prisoner as if he were private property, the Amal leaders say.

Al-Dirani, however, is refusing to hand the pilot over. According to certain reports, he no longer holds the Israeli pilot, but has turned him over to a non-Arab regional power.

Amal sources say that, pior to the Amal-Hizballah incidents in the suburb, Al-Dirani was trying to use the Israeli pilot as a bargaining chip to restore his position in the movement.

Deployment of Army Into East Beirut Discussed

NC1207121988 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] It has been reported that a meeting took place 2 days ago between President Amin al-Jumayyil, Phalangist Party leader George Sa'dah, and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' in Al-Qattarah, where Ja'ja' resides.

According to sources, the conferees discussed the issue of deploying the Army in the eastern areas by the end of July, or early August at the latest. The Lebanese Forces would then be relocated and assembled in the Al-Batrun area.

The Lebanese Forces command would be turned into a social center. As for the weapons and equipment of the Lebanese Forces, the same sources added that the conferees discussed suitable locations for collection of the weapons and equipment.

Presidential Office Explains Helicopter Incident

NC1207120788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The Presidency Directorate General has issued a statement explaining last Saturday's helicopter incident in which President al-Juamyyil was involved.

The statement says: The media have carried reports that His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil was involved in an incident while piloting a helicopter. To clarify the incident, the Presidency Directorate General states that while his excellency the president was flying a helicopter from the presidential summer palace in Bikfayya to the central Jubayl area for an inspection tour, the rotor blades of the helicopter touched a high tension cable. This did not affect the flight of the helicopter, which continued its trip in the normal way.

The Presidency Directorate General, in explaining the truth about what happened, appeals to the media to verify the facts before publishing any wrong information.

Explosion in Sidon Results in Material Damage

NC1107210688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] An explosive charge went off in a car park in Al-Najmah Square in Sidon at about 2200 tonight. The explosion caused only material damage.

3 Syrians Wounded in West Beirut Attack

NC1307090788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Beirut, breaking the sound barrier, at 1035 today.

The Khalil 'Akkawi group of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for a machinegun and rocket attack which it said it carried out last night against a Syrian occupation army position in Qasqas in West Beirut. The group said that three Syrian servicemen were wounded in the attack.

'Saboteurs' Attack SLA, Wounded 2 Soldiers

NC1307063288 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was ambushed by saboteurs on the road to the Sujud post in the Jazzin area yesterday evening. The patrol members replied by searching the area.

SLA positions in Sujud, Jabal al-Ghuzlan, and Al-Rayhan were later subjected to artillery fire. Two soldiers were slightly wounded. Personnel manning the posts returned fired with the appropriate weapons. Saboteurs were seen evacuating their injured to (Nab' al-Tasah).

In another development, the Al-Shumariyah position came under 81-mm mortar fire from (Jiwar Frun) and Al-Ghanduriyah in Al-Nabatiyah. The soldiers manning the post returned the fire, silencing its source.

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Kidnappings

NC1207183388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has accused Hizballah of breaching the security plan in the southern suburb by kidnapping Amal personnel and the attempted kidnapping of Haj Samih Haydus, the Movement's organizational official in Burj al-Barajinah, by Muhammad Khalil, brother of consultative council member Husayn Khalil.

Abductions have continued involving children of the Al-'Aris family. Head of the kidnapping gang Yusuf Jawhar is still at large and is planning more abductions, according to an information source in the movement. The same source said that Amal will not be held responsible for any incident after 5 June involving personnel who do not adhere to the organizational charter of the movement.

The source affirmed: Amal is committed to the Syrian-sponsored security plan, and we hope the other party will be too.

Army Positions Bombarded by PSP 'Gunmen'

NC1207193888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Army positions in Qurs al-Mudawwar and east of Tallat 888 in Suq al-Gharb were bombarded by machinegun fire, hand grenades, and rockets between 2120 and 2200 today from positions manned by PSP gunmen east of Tallat 888. The security committee interceded and put an end to the tension prevailing over the mountain combat lines.

Al-Asad Meets Lebanese Islamic Unification Group

JN1207113088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1230 today received a delegation from the Islamic Unification Movement. The delegation comprised Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, 'Abdallah Bati, and Malik 'Allush. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

TISHRIN Terms Iran Airbus Incident 'Sin'

PM1307081188 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 5 Jul 88 p 8

[Dr Fa'iz al-Sa'igh article: "Aggressive Inclination"]

[Text] The justifications U.S. President Reagan made in his statements, as well as the sadness he expressed following the downing of the civilian aircraft by his naval forces in the Arabian Gulf, killing all its passengers, are superficial.

Regardless of the amount of "regret" expressed, its impact on world public opinion is probably more painful and disastrous than the actual disaster itself.

The new aggressive incident, its circumstances, background, and the irresponsible judgment of the U.S. Administration's military men when they fired the missiles at the civilian aircraft, clearly shows the mentality of those running the equipment and facilities for the U.S. brute force in the Arabian Gulf region.

It also shows significantly the aggressive mentality which runs such facilities and equipment in many other areas of the world, where there are U.S. military forces and bases.

The strange thing is that such aggressive acts, which are premeditated and cannot mislead or numb public opinion by false "regret" or "sadness," are carried out thousands of miles from the U.S. borders in response to orders from the Pentagon and the desire of the U.S. Administration itself, which also announced the news when squadrons of U.S. military aircraft attacked fraternal Libya and targeted the home and family of the head of the state. To accomplish their aggressive mission they used all U.S. military bases while en route to Libya, including "sovereign" British airspace.

In view of the situation and the many incidents world public opinion still recalls, is this aggressive mentality, which runs the biggest imperialist state in the world, not threatening the entire world with destruction? How can an "error" such as this occur in a place containing equipment of limited power and not occur in a place containing equipment of unlimited power? Would it be strange, after all that has happened in many of the areas controlled by the U.S. Administration, if, under natural or exceptional circumstances, a similar "error" occurred leading to total disaster for mankind and civilization on this planet?

It is not important whether the U.S. justifications have an impact or if Reagan regrets are acknowledged. This is something for those who have been harmed to decide. What is important is: How can the entire world deal with this irresponsible element and establish the foundations for world peace without severely punishing those violating it?

There is no description for U.S. military operations in world dictionaries other than terrorism. They undoubtedly threaten the peoples' security and peace. They are exposing mankind to the risks of premeditated "errors." Although such errors have been confined to certain human losses today, they will not tomorrow.

This urgently prompts the world, with its institutions and organizations, to draw up deterrent international laws as well as severe international sanctions and to place a limit on the aggressor and his aggressive inclinations in order for those responsible for world security and peace to spare mankind and civilization a disaster should an "error" be made at a different time and place.

World public opinion knows full well that what has happened is a sin, not an error, and that the defect is in the origin, not in the U.S. military forces' equipment. The defect is in the mentality in charge of this equipment, the mentality of colonialism and hegemonic ambitions, in every sense of the term.

'Arafat Said Building Radio To Rival Al-Quds

JN1107181888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Unattributed talk carried within the "Palestine Broadcast"]

[Text] In light of the momentum sustained by our people's uprising in the occupied land, our masses' enormous capacity for sacrifice, and the considerable enemy losses, we would have liked the PLO leadership to shoulder its responsibilities and devote its attention solely to bolstering and advancing the uprising. However, since the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, the PLO leadership has been up to something.

It no longer contemplates any commando action in the Dimona operation. Instead it is now moving along two parallel lines. The first is to plead for a settlement through gratuitous concessions, as evidenced by the Abu Sharif document and 'Arafat's letter to Shamir. The reverse ought to have happened, specifically that the Israeli leadership should be made, under the blows it is receiving from the uprising, to propose solutions and retreat from its intransigent posture.

The second line pursued by the 'Arafat leadership since the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir has been to open fire on the Fatah uprising. Following the martyrdom of Khalil al-Wazir, the 'Arafat leadership sought to use the occasion to stab its Fatah opponents in the back.

Accordingly, it resorted to inciting the camps war and unashamedly raising the slogan of brother triumphing over brother instead of shedding tears of blood for our brothers. This happened while our people, including children, were busy fighting a great battle against the fiercest enemy history has known.

How can 'Arafat qualify as a responsible leader cognizant of his duties to the Palestinian people when he does such things at a time when our people need national unity so badly? If the uprising in the occupied homeland has taken Al-Quds Radio as an authority representing its solidarity from the very beginning, 'Arafat now spends the money that ought to have been earmarked for supporting the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland on building a radio station in Sidon to lure listeners away from Al-Quds radio and to destroy [Palestinian] unity.

What kind of nationalist leader keeps his fighters from engaging the enemy to support the uprising and gives them free rein to fight his own people? What kind of nationalist leader is one whose only concern is to have a radio station of his own to mislead people and to busy himself with writing letters begging an ignominuous settlement whereby he joins hands with all those who have abrogated their pan-Arab responsibilities toward Palestine? Is he not the kind of leader who swims against the tide of history and the will of the people? Such a leader, surely, does more harm than good.

Jordanian Ba'thists Condemn Yasir 'Arafat
JN1207155588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] A responsible source in the Jordanian Regional Command of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party stated that since the Algiers Summit, which objectively defined the nature of the confrontation with the Zionist enemy through unlimited support for our Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied homeland, the lines of conspiracy on facts and their meaning have been consecrated by the internal revolution.

After the submissive group's document, which was molded by the one supported by 'Arafat, better known as Bassam Abu Sharif, and after covering the rotten body with a clean robe purged by the blood of the heroic martyrs, the perverted rightist 'Arafatist group created the fratricide in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

It imposed upon our Palestinian masses a state of eternal hopelessness and coexistance with death and destruction to please the imperialistic and Zionist circles. These imposed such a condition on these fallen groups as part of the struggle to fight those who reject the submissive line and subjugate them to their orders and decision, which are contrary by nature and course to the Palestinian revolution, its national charter, and its commitment to liberating the Palestinian land.

It is quite strange that from time to time we hear the loathed and abnormal sounds of accusations directed against the Arab Syrian nation and its military forces, whose duty it is to restore security and stability to Arab Lebanon. These sounds forget or pretend to forget the heroic pan-Arab role of Arab Syria and its leadership, around which all Arab liberation forces rally, including our Arab Palestinian people and the blazing revolution inside Palestine.

It is not a coincidence that the statements of the Palestinian rightist leaders come at the same time as the statements of the Zionist enemy. The source of the order and decision is the same.

The Syrian stands, which reject all surrender formulas, make all these sides stand in one trench, a trench full of sedition distancing the common pan-Arab concern from the one Palestinian concern for the strategic goals, which is not subject to losing bets. This is the goal of liberation and the establishment of the Palestinian state within the sphere of confederation with the Zionist entity.

From this premise, from the position of national and pan-Arab responsibility, and in the name of our Arab masses in Jordan, we declare our absolute rejection of the fabricated fratricide, condemn its irresponsible tools, and warn them against the continued moving of battles from one camp to another.

We call on our Palestinian people's masses to raise their voices high against these degenerate cliques, which have never stopped trading in the martyrs' blood to compensate for their trail of surrender, which is in harmony with their political backgrounds, which are known throughout the Arab nation's militant history as being against all of its aspirations and goals.

We clearly declare that the Syrian trench holds only strugglers and revolutionaries. The picture now becomes clear, and the elucidation becomes a pan-Arab mission. The exposure of those who penetrated into the Arab liberation movement has become a pan-Arab responsibility that must shouldered by all Arab strugglers in the whole of the Arab world.

Greetings to all Arab strugglers. Greetings to our great party, under its general secretary, the struggling Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. Immortality to our message.

Commentary on 'Constant' Attitude Toward Lebanon
JN1107142388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Lebanese figures of diverse political persuasions are visiting Damascus these days. It is not an uncommon for Lebanese brothers to come to Damascus for the gates of Damascus are always open for the Lebanese brothers.

There they find understanding and appreciation, principled positions, and the practical implementation of Syria's decisions which have already been anounced by the leader and president of Syria, His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad; namely, standing alongside Lebanon and helping the brother Lebanese. Syria's attitude toward Lebanon and the Lebanese brothers has been constant and will remain so because it is dictated both by Syrian and pan-Arab interests and the supreme pan-Arab interests of the Arab masses.

As Syrian officials have declared on numerous occasions, there is no difference whatsoever between Lebanon's national interests and Syria's national and pan-Arab interests. Therefore, Damascus has been the mecca for all Lebanese brothers under all kinds of circumstances. They have always been welcomed and received help for whatever action or potentially beneficial step that would alleviate the abnormal conditions in Lebanon brought about by its and the Arabs' enemies, the mistakes of local groups and factions, and the gaps in the system.

The enemies have used these circumstances to start a conflagration so that the conflict will divert Arab attention from the principal enemy and pan-Arab battle, the Camp David conspiracy, approach, and its causes. Diverse Lebanese parties have found help in Syria in times of need. Syria has not differentiated among the Lebanese parties. It has defended the wronged party and championed the cause of those who have been wrongly targeted for threats. Syria has also confronted aggressors, staunched the flow of blood, and established peace and security wherever possible and wherever called on to do so.

Syria has never been and never will be a party to Lebanon's internal conflict. It has always and will continue to support whoever confronts the Israeli option, which is hostile to the interests of Lebanon. Syria also supports workers on behalf of Lebanon's survival, its unity and territorial integrity, its Arab affiliation, the liberation of its national soil from Israeli occupation, and the exercise of its role in its Arab environs with vigor and interaction.

All visitors to Syria feel that it is genuinely and constantly anxious to implement its decision to aid the Lebanese brothers in coping with their problems; overcoming their difficulties; safeguarding their unity, symbols and institutions; and moving down the road of national accord leading to a national solution.

Those who have Lebanon's national interests and the peace, security, and future of its citizens at heart must find that the road to Damascus leads only to good things. It is open to all men of goodwill and nationalist aims and to those who want to save Lebanon from its crisis and move it toward the road of reconciliation and nationalist solution.

The one condition Syria requires from anyone in Lebanon is to be dedicated to Lebanon, its territorial integrity, its Arab affiliation, and the goal of liberating Lebanese territory from the filth of the Israeli occupation. Any Lebanese who meets this requirement will consistently find an open heart and mind in Damascus, as well as a willingness to listen, help, and cooperate,

Afghanistan

Sharq Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD1207175888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] A source at the Council of Ministers has told BIA that the council met this morning at its headquarters under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Sharq.

The session included detailed discussions of the items on the agenda, and specific decisions were issued on many of the questions raised. Several points on the agenda required further consideration, and a number of ministries and commissions were asked to provide additional information on them.

The merger of the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education and the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education was approved at today's meeting, which ended at 1600.

UN Given Two Notes on Pakistani 'Violations'

LD1207195188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that the 45th memorandum from the Republic of Afghanistan concerning Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords was handed over to the UN office in Kabul this afternoon.

The note provides precise and comprehensive information on six recent Pakistani violations of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords.

According to another report from the same source, the Republic of Afghanistan's 46th note, which deals with one case of Pakistan's blatant violation of the terms of the Geneva accords, was also delivered to UNGOMAP.

The mission was asked to study Pakistan's violations of Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and to convey its findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

Islamic Coalition Leader Rejects Cordovez Plan

LD1207190088 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 12, IRNA—An official of the Pakistan-based seven party Afghan Islamic coalition said here today that it would soon send a delegation to the Islamic Republic to discuss the current developments in Afghanistan.

'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, a coalition leader rejected the new plan proposed by the U.N. mediator for Afghan issues, and pointed out that he did not consider Diego Cordovez as an impartial mediator.

Cordovez had proposed that a multi-party provisional government be formed in Afghanistan upon the withdrawal of Soviet troops, but he insisted that the 'Loya Jirgah' (parliament) which is to be held on March 1 next year, will decide the country's permanent government on March 5, 1989.

The U.N. mediator had also proposed that in the meantime Afghan parties could transfer their bureaux to Kabul and accept a cease-fire with the Kabul regime effective from September 1st.

However it should be noted that the Afghan mujahidin have served notice of forming nothing short of an Islamic government, while the parliament of the Soviet-installed Kabul regime is exclusively composed of two communist factions, the ruling 'Parcham' (Flag) Party and the so-called opposition group 'Khalq' (People), both of which Afghan Muslims have vowed to eradicate.

Diplomats Cite Increased Mujahidin Activity

BK1207154288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 12 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas have set up bases within 10 kilometers (six miles) of Kabul and have stepped up attacks on the capital, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Three military posts that had formed part of Kabul's outer defence line have fallen to the mujahidin resistance since late June and the guerrillas were now "well-established" within 10 kilometers (six miles) of the city, operating from areas to the south, south-east and west.

More than 90 Afghan troops have been killed in the past three weeks in clashes with guerrillas around Kabul, the diplomats said.

There had been a "dramatic escalation" in rebel attacks on Kabul, the diplomats said, adding that there were 15 rocket attacks last week alone, including a highly destructive daylight barrage against the Shahr-e Now and Qala Fatehullah [as received] areas in the centre of the city.

The rebels had also staged bomb attacks inside the city and a truck bomb blast Wednesday may have killed up to 18 people, three times the official death toll, the diplomats said.

The blast, designed to coincide with a trip to the Afghan capital by former U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez, shook most of the northern half of the city breaking windows

three kilometers (two miles) from the ministries and the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) offices where it went off, they said.

A second bomb was discovered and defused the same day.

A car bomb adjacent to a Soviet military hospital killed 20 Soviet patients, rebels said, and wounded 40 civilians.

A rocket attack the following day caused many deaths and injuries, the diplomats said.

Rocket attacks continued in the evening, hitting Dar ol Aman military base and the 8th Afghan Army Division's Headquarters at Qarghah, the diplomats said.

Western diplomats believed the increased guerrilla activity in Kabul was paralleled by stepped up mujahidin attacks south and west of the capital.

Mujahidin forces west of Kabul were recently augmented by the arrival of fresh men including trained guerrillas who served under Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's command in the country's northern region, they said.

The guerrillas have forced government troops to abandon all their posts in the Bektut area near Paghman, the summmer capital northwest of Kabul, they added.

They have also captured Mohammad Agha and Baraki Barak towns southwest of the capital in Lowgar Province, cutting off roads to Kabul and were increasing pressure on the provincial capital Pol-e 'Alam.

There were unconfirmed reports that government forces had recaptured Mohammad Agha.

The situation is also tense around Qandahar in the south, the country's second biggest city, where officials last week broadcast loudspeaker warnings that if the mujahidin took the city it would be bombed, the diplomats said.

Qandahar Governor Describes Rebel Attacks

LD1207152388 Moscow TASS in English 1305 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul July 12 TASS—By TASS correspondents Yuriy Tyssovskiy and Aleksandr Snastin:

"Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, and the abortive attempts by extremists to capture the city, the armed opposition leaders decided to establish control over Qandahar Province," the provincial governor-general, 'Abdul Haq Ulumi, has stated.

"They launched their first attack in Spin Buldak District by concentrating there large forces: more than three thousand men armed by Pakistan with Western-made weapons," he told the TASS correspondents at his residence in the provincial capital, the city of Qandahar.

"The Pakistani authorities, in violation of the Geneva agreements, backed the opposition forces with artillery fire. Pakistani long-range artillery based in Chaman shelled our positions. Up to 1,500 shells dropped on Spin Buldak in one day.

The extremists even used chemical mines in the border regions. But they failed to seize Spin Buldak, even with assistance from foreign advisers.

As to Qandahar, they intended to capture it in twenty-four hours. As you see, these attempts failed," said the governor-general.

"Opposition units suffered heavy losses in the fighting for Qandahar, Spin Buldak, Arghandab and Maywand, which undermined the morale of the extremist group members," he observed.

"The population could see once again that the rebels were capable of nothing but malicious and senseless terror.

Tribes and districts send their representatives to Pakistan to demand that the opposition leaders cease senseless bloodshed."

Ulumi described a keen conflict on a tribal basis within the opposition forces. "The biggest Qandahar tribes of Doranay and Ghilzai refuse to obey orders by 'alien' extremist leaders, like Gulbuddin Hikmatyar of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and other leaders of the alliance of the seven.

Ever more rank-and-file members of armed groups are beginning to doubt the slogans advanced by the irreconcilable opposition."

Rebels Seize Moqor

BK1207155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] In the Qandahar area of Afghanistan, the mujahidin are said to have captured the district headquarters of Moqor, which is located on the highway to Qandahar. The mujahidin attacked the town on Saturday [10 July] and captured it after inflicting heavy losses on the forces of the Kabul regime. The mujahidin also seized 12 tanks and 2 military trucks. In addition, they ambushed a military convoy near Qandahar on Friday, destroying 11 oil tankers and other vehicles.

In Nangarhar Province, the mujahidin attacked the Kabul troops on Friday, capturing 12 posts.

According to reports from Jalalabad, more than 30 of the Kabul regime's soldiers have been killed and another 40 injured in the fighting that has taken place in that area. (Kantiwa-Nuswali) in Nimruz Province has also fallen to the mujahidin.

Additional Clashes Noted

LD1107094088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Kabul, July 10, BAKHTAR—As a result of fierce fighting in Enjil and Ghomien [as received] Districts of Herat, Sayyed Karam District of Paktia Provinces 'Alisheng and Dawlat Shah of Laghman Province, Gheysar of Faryab Province and 'Aliabad District of Konduz Province fourty five extremists were killed and another forty one persons wounded. [passage omitted]

Kabul 'Ringleader' Killed

LD1207121688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that a group of armed extremists who belonged to Gulbuddin's band and sought to disrupt the peaceful lives of the people of Qarah Bagh District, in Kabul Province, has been crushed by the country's security forces. The action was conducted in cooperation with the area's peace-loving people.

As a result of these combat operations by the country's security forces, Eng 'Abdul Hadi, also known as (?Halim), a ringleader of the extremist groups, was killed.

Nangarhar 'Extremists' Crushed

LD1207120888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] As a result of mopping-up operations by the border forces of Achin District, in Nangarhar Province, a group of extremists who intended to disrupt the peaceful lives of the people there was crushed.

According to a BAKHTAR military correspondent reporting from the city of Jalalabad, in Nangarhar Province, a number of extremists were killed in these actions, including (Qari Esanollah), ringleader of the group and a resident of the village of [name indistinct], (Rohdad) District, Nangarhar Province. Some 24 others were badly injured.

Another report notes that in an operation conducted by the Armed Forces in cooperation with the people, a second group of extremists, which had been a source of fear in Gowshtah District, Nangarhar Province, was crushed. The report adds that the leader of the (Azemollah) group, together with other extremists, was killed, while three others were wounded.

710 Refugees Return From Iran, Pakistan

LD1107090188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 10, BAKHTAR—One hundred twenty four families numbering seven hundred ten persons returned home from Iran and Pakistan, during last two days. The returnees after receiving primary assistance were transferred to their home towns in Herat, Ghazni, Parvan, Baghlan, Kabul and Oruzgan Provinces.

The transfer of another eight hundred ninety persons by Ariana Afghan Airline flight from Herat to Kabul. [sentence as received]

Nur Aqa said in an interview to our correspondent, that during his nine years of stay as a refugee in Iran, he had been in Tehran, Ahvaz, Bandar-e 'Abbas leading a filthy life and hearing insults showered on him by pasdaran [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps personnel].

Before crossing over the border he was attacked by Afghan extremists and Revolutionary Guards of Iran and his properties were robbed.

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary on Tribal Refugees in India

BK1007161588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Bangladesh expects that the visit of its high commissioner to Chakma [tribal] refugee camps in the Indian State of Tripura will help early return of the refugees to their homes in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Talking to newsmen in Dhaka today, Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam said the visit has been planned to demonstrate Dhaka's eagerness to see its nationals back to their country. Bangladesh High Commissioner in India Faruq Chowdhury is expected to visit the camp tomorrow and explain to the refugees the significant improvement in the condition of Chittagong Hill Tracts following manifold measures taken by the government.

The high commissioner will be joined by a 14-member delegation that will travel to Tripura from Bangladesh. The delegation includes several well-known tribal leaders like Raja Debashish Roy, Mr Charubikash Chakma, and Mr Gautam Barua. So far, 8,000 refugees have returned home on their own following various measures taken by the government.

Trust for Repatriation of Pakistanis Welcomed

BK1007161688 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Dhaka has welcomed the signing of an agreement between Pakistan and the Mecca-based Rabta al-'Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League] for repatriation of an estimated 259,100 stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam told newsmen in Dhaka today that Bangladesh welcomes the agreement as the first step toward repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis. Bangladesh is looking after them for 17 years. Under the agreement which was reached in Islamabad yesterday, a trust will be set up to raise the funds needed for repatriation and rehabilitation of these people.

India

West Bengal Minister Praises Gurkha Convention

BK1107163988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has said the outcome of the joint convention of the frontal organizations of GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front], held in Darjeeling yesterday, is a positive step toward restoring normalcy and peace in the hill areas. Talking to newsmen in Siliguri this afternoon, he said the last tripartite talk held in Delhi was on the proposed hill development council. When pointed out that Mr Ghisingh categorically said that the convention neither accepted nor rejected the hill council proposal, Mr Basu said our interpretation is that they have accepted it.

Meanwhile, the GNLF president, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, has said he would not visit Delhi for a fresh round of talks till 90 percent of the GNLF detainees are released and the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] are replaced by the BSF [Border Security Force] in the Darjeeling hills. Mr Ghisingh told newsmen in Darjeeling that the GNLF has kept its word by stopping violence and now it is the responsibility of both the Center and the West Bengal government to reciprocate.

The Center has welcomed the withdrawal of the agitational approach by GNLF and endorsement of the proposals for hill council for Darjeeling areas.

177 Gurkhas Released; Bombs Explode in Kalimpong

BK1207130688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] In West Bengal, 177 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists, out of 528 arrested under the Antiterrorist Act, have been released. They include 12 women.

Two bombs exploded in different parts of Kalimpong town last night, but there is no report of any casualty or damage. According to the district magistrate, this could be the handiwork of antisocial elements or some breakaway group of the GNLF. Barring this incident, the hill areas of Darjeeling remained peaceful in the last 6 days.

Three Organizations Call Strikes in Assam

BK1207165988 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] In Assam, normal life was affected today following a simultaneous bundh [strike] call by three organizations on different issues. The bundh call given by the All-Guwahati Students Union paralyzed life in Guwahati city. They were protesting the arrest of some of the leaders of their union. Shops and business establishments remained closed, while the attendance in government offices and banks was very thin.

According to PTI, Indian Airlines operated its flights though its city office was closed. Buses remained off the road. Train services were also affected.

Elsewhere, the 100-hour bundh in the tribal-dominated areas continued for the 2d day today. The bundh call was given by the Boro Students Union. In Nowgong town, all shops and business establishments remained closed for 4 hours on the call given by the local unit of the ruling Ahang Gana Parishad. The party call was given to express sympathy with those injured in Sunday's bomb explosion in front of the cinema hall.

Paper Criticizes U.S. for Downing Iranian Plane

BK1107091088 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Jul 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Super Power Arrogance"]

[Text] The US cannot escape blame for the shooting down of an Iranian civilian airliner causing the death of some 290 persons aboard. It is hard to accept Washington's explanation that the two surface-to-air missiles were fired by the USS Vincennes at the Iranian A 300 Airbus while it was flying over the Strait of Hormuz on a scheduled flight from Teheran to Dubayy via Bandar-e 'Abbas because it was mistaken for an F-14 or F-16 jet fighter. There is a world of difference between the blip of a small, slim fighter and the big, widebodied Airbus. The explanation appears even feebler when it is seen that the American ship had the best and most sophisticated radar system meant to make just such distinctions.

It is strange that the US is trying to justify the shooting down while regretting the loss of lives. Its actions inevitably draw comparison with the shooting down in 1983 of a civilian Korean airliner by the Soviet Union. The United States was vehement in its reaction to what Moscow's sharp shooters had done and what it said then will recoil on it now. Washington had expressed scornful scepticism that such an action by a Super Power

equipped with the latest and best technology could possibly be an accident. Now the US has sought to give a similar explanation saying that it mistook the Airbus for a fighter while the Soviet Union had said that it mistook the jumbo for an RC-135 spy plane.

There are other comparisons; both Super Powers sought to show that the planes were flying off course or outside the commercial air corridor. While the Soviet Union's charge turned out to be correct, Washington's has been refuted. The Soviet Union, like the US now, also claimed to have warned the aircraft before shooting it down but this had not lessened its offence in the eyes of the world. It is unlikely to view the US action differently. While it is true that the Korean plane was not flying in a war zone as the Americans claim that the Iranian plane was, it was in Soviet airspace. And what does the war zone charge amount to?

Commercial air traffic has continued to overfly the Gulf despite the war and there has been no attempt to discourage this. In fact the US and other foreign navies are in the Gulf professedly to keep the sea lanes—and by implication—the air lanes open. Their presence should not have increased the peril. The Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Crowe, may be correct in saying that "the accident was waiting to happen". The world would still like to know why the innocents were killed. There may be many answers to this question. But is there an answer for the arrogance of Super Powers?

Future of Soviet-Pakistani Relations Analyzed
BK0807115888 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 88 p 11

[Article by Bhabani Sen Gupta: "Future of Soviet-Pak Relations"]

[Text] The Soviet Union will not take any major initiative to improve relations with Pakistan. However, Moscow wants good relations between Pakistan and India, and would welcome both Indian initiatives in this regard, and joint Indo-Pakistan initiatives. This is the impression that I gathered during discussions held recently with the CPSU central committee secretariat and the foreign office in Moscow on the South Asian situation.

The Soviets noted with regret General Ziaul Haq's refusal to grasp India's proffered hands to find a government in Kabul that would be acceptable to most Afghans. Later, American sources said that the United States too would have been happy if Pakistan had responded positively to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's March initiative. The thrust of that initiative, it may be recalled, was that Pakistan, India, Kabul and Mujahidin work together for a government of national reconciliation in Afghanistan as Soviet troops are withdrawn in accordance with the Geneva agreement.

General Ziaul Haq dismissed the Junejo government and dissolved the National Assembly even before the results of the Moscow visit of Mr Zain Noorani, Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, could be adequately assessed in Islamabad. Mr Noorani's talks with Soviet officials had proved to be "constructive". The Soviets left the visiting Pakistani Minister in no doubt that the future of Soviet-Pakistan relationship would be determined by Pakistan's observance or violation of the Geneva accord.

In Moscow, General Ziaul Haq's "Sunday massacre" was seen to be motivated principally by his resolution to handle the post-Geneva Afghan situation himself, with the help of other Generals, unhindered by the contrary pulls coming from the "elected" government of Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Mr Gorbachev's announcement of February 8 that Soviet troops would be pulled out of Afghanistan in 12 months or even sooner from the date of signing a Geneva agreement had taken the Pakistan government by surprise. The then Prime Minister, Mr Junejo, hurriedly convened a well-attended meeting with Opposition party leaders with a view to creating a national consensus on how to respond to the new situation. With a lone exception, all the political leaders, assembled at Mr Junejo's request, wanted the government to conclude the Geneva accord and work with the Soviet Union to get the Soviet troops out of Afghanistan. Public opinion in Pakistan was also strongly in favour of co-operating with Moscow, if not Kabul.

Mr Junejo inclined towards the national consensus. However, diplomatic consultations between Islamabad and Washington led to the invention of two tactical moves, both outside the Geneva accord. The US was to press Moscow for symmetry of arms supplies or at least for a "negative symmetry", which would mean that neither side supplied arms to its client during the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Pakistan, on its own part, would demand agreement on an interim regime in Kabul as part of the Geneva agreement. For nearly a month, Mr Noorani fought doggedly for this objective, while supporting the US demand. Finally, Pakistan had to sign the agreement as it had been put together by the UN mediator Diego Cordovez in four years of hard diplomatic labours.

Since 1984, a Soviet constituency was steadily growing in Pakistan, which was an altogether new development in that country. It was triggered by the highly sophisticated conduct of Soviet diplomacy in Pakistan exemplified by the completion of the Karachi steel plant and its hand-over to the Pakistan government despite the acute tension between the two countries over Pakistan's role in reinforcing the insurgency against the Kabul regime.

At one stage, the Soviets offered Pakistan an assured, internationally-recognised border along the Durand Line if Islamabad would stop being a frontline state for the

US; later, Moscow brandished a large portfolio of development projects as a reward for Pakistan's cooperation. Two successive and highly energetic Soviet ambassadors worked hard to persuade Pakistanis of all walks of life that it would be in their country's interests to work with Moscow and Kabul to resolve the Afghan crisis.

While explaining Pakistan's compulsions and obligations, in Moscow, Mr Noorani assured the Soviets that Islamabad would indeed implement the Geneva agreement. He wanted a high-power Soviet delegation to visit Pakistan for comprehensive talks covering the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship, to be followed by a visit by the Soviet Foreign Minister. A visit to the Soviet Union by Mr Junejo was also mentioned. The consistent Soviet response was: it all depends on how correctly Pakistan implements the agreement it has signed in good faith.

General Ziaul Haq will be going against the articulated wish of most Pakistanis if he enables the Mujahidin to attack the withdrawing Soviet troops on a significant scale. There have been a number of attacks and several Soviet soldiers have been killed, drawing a grave warning from Mr Gorbachev himself. However, the scale of fighting in Afghanistan during the first month of the Geneva accord has not been large; instead of halting the withdrawal or rescheduling the time-table, Moscow has in fact pulled out more troops than the Americans expected. Americans now believe that Mr Gorbachev would run up rather than slow down the pace of withdrawal. They also say that the Soviets must realise that Pakistan cannot afford to implement the accord completely for that would lock Islamabad into an armed conflict with the Mujahidin, the consequences of which would be dire for Pakistan.

American diplomats concede that U.S. and Pakistani priorities in Afghanistan are not entirely identical after Geneva. For the U.S., what really matters is that the Soviet troops are out of Afghanistan. For Pakistan, for at any rate for the Pakistan military, what matters most is that the Mujahidin return to Afghanistan. If Pakistan has to give them all the arms they demand, it would do that. Once the Mujahidin are within Afghanistan, they may or may not remain under Gen Ziaul Haq's control or even influence. Americans concede that whatever government rules in Kabul, it will have to be friendly towards the Soviet Union within a short period of time. They see little point in trying to prop up an anti-Soviet regime in Kabul.

Gen Ziaul Haq, however, is playing a different game. Both he and Mr Rajiv Gandhi realise—as do the Soviets and Americans—that once the Russian troops have left, Afghanistan becomes a South Asian issue. The Prime Minister's March initiative was designed to avoid an India-Pakistan confrontation over Afghanistan. General Zia on the other hand, has risked making Afghanistan a bone of contention with India. India's interest lies in being able to maintain friendly relations with Afghanistan, the kind of relations that prevailed all through the last four decades.

For that, Afghanistan must have a secular government, whatever be its political colour, and the country must remain non-aligned and independent. An Islamic fundamentalist regime in Afghanistan would not serve India's national interest nor America's or the Soviet's, as Mr Rajiv Gandhi pointed out in his interview to the NEW YORK TIMES.

General Ziaul Haq seems to have put all his eggs into the extremist fundamentalist baskets of two Mujahidin leaders, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Muhammad Khalis. He has set his goal: a regime in Kabul that would remain loyal and friendly to Pakistan. If he gets what he seems to have plumped for, the balance of power in South Asia will change in favour of Pakistan. Of course, General Ziaul Haq cannot be certain that he will pull off his bait.

If the Kabul regime can defend itself—thus proving that the Moscow-Delhi assessment is right and the American-Pakistani-West European assessment is wrong—General Ziaul Haq will suffer the greatest setback in his political career. He has, however, kept an escape route open. In the coming 90 days or so, the picture in Afghanistan will be much clearer. If the fundamentalist Mujahidin begin to lose or cannot gain much success, General Zia will call for election and hand over power to an elected civilian regime.

He is, however, taking a grave risk of pushing Pakistan's relations with India to the brink of a terrible crisis. The Indian Government has made a major case out of Pakistan's intervention in Punjab on behalf of the terrorists. If, in addition to that, Pakistan is able to set up an extremist fundamentalist regime in Kabul and bring Afghanistan under its influence, the Indian reaction will be very dark indeed. This worries Americans much more than Moscow's current psychological war on Pakistan.

But the US is caught in the horns of a knotty dilemma. Even the last embers of Reaganism would demand continued arms supplies to the Mujahidin; besides, Pakistan is a friend that is, or has been, almost an ally. On the other hand, another armed conflict between Pakistan and India—which Americans say cannot be altogether ruled out—would totally upset Washington's foreign policy gains in South Asia.

The United States is, therefore, advising restraint to General Ziaul Haq without being certain that the Pakistani leader would heed its counsel. Moscow, on the other hand, is hoping that President Reagan would eventually protect the understanding that has grown between the two Super Powers, and not allow Pakistan to burn down the Geneva agreement.

Iran

Further Reportage, Comment on Airbus Downing

U.S. Compensation Offer Rejected

LD1207180488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[From "The Voice of Justice" program]

[Excerpts] Although it is not the first time that the aggressive United States has committed a great crime involving the lives of innocent people, the national sovereignty of other countries, and against humanity, this recent crime merits study and investigation from various angles. Everything that needed to be said has already been said regarding the downing of an Iranian Airbus over the Persian Gulf by two missiles fired by a U.S. cruiser.

Our country's political and military officials and the conscientious people of the world have raised many issues about this disaster, its perpetrators, and the many contradictions in the remarks made by U.S. officials. However, what has not yet been fully dealt with is the legal dimensions of this crime.

President Reagan has announced that the file on the Iranian airliner has been closed as far as he is concerned, despite the fact that everyone knows the file of a crime can be declared closed only when the criminal has been appropriately punished. In the words of the UN secretary general, this issue is not something which can be declared closed unilaterally and by only one country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to provide an appropriate political and military response to this crime; and this issue has greater political and military dimensions than an ordinary crime in which the side which has committed the offense receives due punishment. Therefore, in addition to pursuing an international judicial investigation, this issue has a special position in Iran's military and diplomatic strategy. In view of this, Iran took its complaint to the UN Security Council, and our country's airline has also called for convening an extraordinary session of the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization] to investigate the disaster. At the same time, an appropriate answer can only be given on the battlefields of an all-out war against world arrogance.

During this program, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Amid Zanjani, a university professor and chairman of the Majlis Legal Committee, will discuss the dimensions of the disaster from an Islamic legal point of view.

[Begin 'Amid-Zanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] From an Islamic legal point of view, the first point is committing a large-scale deliberate murder. More than 290 innocent people, who did not have any means of self-defense as they were trapped inside an airborne plane, were the victims of a deliberate act of murder. From an Islamic legal point of view, this is a frightening offense and crime.

The second point, which also has a political dimension, concerns the violation of the sovereignty of a nation, which again from the viewpoint of Islam and Islamic principles is an issue that should be investigated both as a violation of territorial sovereignty as well as political sovereignty. [passage omitted]

The third point which should be studied is the international Islamic dimensions of the issue. In Islamic law we have a principle which concerns the principle of mass responsibility as a religious duty and as a law. According to this principle, with regard to any crime committed anywhere in the Islamic world, all Muslims have a common responsibility toward the aggression and political offenses of enemies. All Muslim nations and all the world's Muslims, whether in Islamic countries or not, have a common responsibility regarding this disaster. This responsibility is not discharged merely by condemning the act.

On the contrary, in order to foil future crimes of world arrogance, particularly the criminal United States of America, against other Islamic nations and countries, sufficient pre-emptive moves should be undertaken by all Islamic nations and in general, by all the Muslims of the world—pre-emptive activities which will deter the criminal U.S. superpower and other powerful countries from repeating such overt aggressions and frightening crimes.

Therefore, it is the right of the Muslim Iranian nation on the basis of Islamic principles to ask all Muslim nations and the word's Muslims to not merely condemn this U.S. crime, but to take the necessary steps to deter and prevent the superpowers from committing such crimes. As a result of this bitter experience, which the Muslim Iranian nation has valiantly endured and will certainly not leave unanswered, other Islamic nations can join hands with the Muslim Iranian nation in preventative steps. This means that in the future powerful countries and world devourers will not dare commit such an offense and crime, not only against the Iranian nation but against any other Muslim nation or people of the world. [passage omitted]

The disaster involving the downing of the Iranian Airbus by the criminal U.S. naval forces has many dimensions under Islamic law. I think if there is an opportunity, any of those aspects could be carefully discussed and analyzed. We are entitled to condemn the perpetrators of the crime committed inside Iranian airspace in accordance with Islamic laws and our national laws. Moreover, we are entitled to render verdicts on them based on Iranian laws and Islamic principles.

The issue of financial compensation is being raised in the world. However, Islamic law and Iranian laws require that compensation be rejected because Islamic jurisprudence raises the issue of retribution [qesas] regarding deliberate murder. Financial compensation for the act is not open to discussion. When murder is deliberate, Islamic penal laws demand that the guilty should be subject to punishment. The injured party [wali-we dam] can refuse to receive compensation or blood money. Therefore, those who imagine that this great crime can be resolved by paying compensation or blood money are mistaken.

From the viewpoint of the Islamic penal code and Iranian criminal laws and regulations, Iran reserves the right to demand the perpetrators [as heard] of this massacre, this disaster, and this deliberate murder, so that it can exact retribution and demand material and spiritual compensation for this great disaster and crime. Of course, this issue is quite involved and I do not think we can explain here. I hope there will be another opportunity to discuss the matter in greater detail. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official Comments

NC1307082988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Following the U.S. missile attack on the Islamic Republic's plane, which resulted in the martyrdom of 290 innocent passengers, U.S. officials made contradictory remarks in a bid to cover up this horrific crime, as they did in the case of their other crimes. They said the passenger plane was mistaken for a military plane. However, these assertions, according to military commanders, not only do not conform with any logic, but also contradict international conventions.

Meanwhile, the Security Council is to meet on Thursday [14 July] to discuss this issue. This will actually be a big test for the organization. During this session, Foreign Minister Velayati will describe this horrific crime by the United States and announce the Islamic Republic's just position to the world.

Mr 'Abdi-Abyaneh, director general of legal affairs in the Foreign Ministry, condemned this U.S. crime and spoken about international conventions on this:

[Begin 'Abdi-Abyaneh recording] This aggressive act by the U.S. fleet, which is equipped with modern radar equipment, manifests the failure of the United States to conform with international laws and norms. This undoubtedly places the responsibility on the U.S. Administration.

The attack on this passenger plane, which was flying in the Islamic Republic's airspace, is a violation of the Islamic Republic's sovereignty. This U.S. act not only fails to conform with the general norms of international law, which forbids countries to resort to force against civilian targets, but is a clear violation of the 1944 Chicago Convention and its amendments on international aviation. On the basis of this convention, countries are obliged to refrain from using arms against passenger planes. It is noteworthy that the United States itself was among those who drew up these regulations.

Even where countries at war are concerned, on the basis of the 1949 Geneva Convention and its addenda belligerents should refrain from attacking passenger planes, which constitute civilian targets. Before carrying out any attack, the necessary steps should be taken to identify the plane. If it is impossible to tell whether the plane is a civil or military aircraft, it should be assumed that it is a civilian target and it should not be attacked.

The approach by international circles, and particularly by the UN Security Council, on this will provide world public opinion with the best criteria to judge the true nature of these circles in relation to this horrific U.S. crime, which is against human rights. [end recording]

UN Debate Postponed

LD1207120788 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 12, IRNA—Britain has given its clearest indication that it is prepared to defend the self-righteousness of the U.S. over the downing of an Iranian Airbus at a Security Council debate in New York this week.

Speaking at the Arab Research Centre in London Monday, Minister for Middle East Affairs David Mellor was fearful that Washington was losing its propaganda campaign and said that the U.K. would not allow the debate to be "some witch-hunt against the U.S."

The Reagan Administration was seen making a hasty retreat Monday by offering to make some kind of compensation payment to the 290 passengers it killed in the missile attack on the plane on July 3 to head-off mounting criticism about its arrogance over the issue.

Mellor said that it was not clear what form the emergency debate would take, which has been delayed to Thursday, but said that he doubted whether a resolution condemning the U.S. action would be accepted by the Council.

"Those who want an international body to intervene first need to show respect for that body," he maintained but chose not to mention Britain's eagerness to use the Council when it suited its purpose while blatantly disregarding annual U.N. calls to negotiate with Argentina over the Falkland Islands.

Two permanent members of the Council, the Soviet Union and China, have already condemned the U.S. for the unprovoked civilian attack, and although Washington can veto the move, to do so would only confirm the unbalanced nature of U.N.

Preferably the U.S. would look to one of its allies to save it from the acute embarrassment and Britain has been the only country to have given the unqualified backing it has been so desparately seeking as its cover-up attempts have crumbled at every hurdle.

In obliging fashion Monday, the U.K. responded with a two-pronged assault to show its undying support for Reagan and twisted the argument to show Iran in poor light as though it deserved to have its innocent passengers killed by the U.S.

Prime Minister Thatcher in an unprecendented interview with Soviet listeners on the BBC World Service repeated her defence of the U.S., while Foreign Secretary Howe, ushered onto a television entertainment program, tried to castigate Iran as some kind of terrorist country.

Black Box Search Continues

LD1307151988 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., July 13, IRNA—The dawn-to-dusk search for finding the remaining bodies of passengers of the U.S.-downed Iranian airliner, and also the flight recorder (black box) continue deep in the rough waters of the Persian Gulf ten days after the tragedy.

The black box is placed at the tail of passenger planes. Flight 655 exploded in mid-air on being hit by the U.S. naval forces on July 3.

Frogmen of the Iranian naval units employing highly sophisticated equipment are searching a 36-square-mile zone near Hengam Island despite storms, pollution and schools of dangerous sharks.

More than 200 bodies have so far been retrieved from the waters. The Iranian plane (Airbus A-300) had 290 passengers and crew on board when it was shot down by two missiles fired by USS Vincennes, en route from here to Dubayy on 3 July.

U.S. Officials, Weekly Defend Gulf Policy

LD1107132188 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Washington July 11 TASS—The U.S. Administration has no plans of changing its policy of military interference in the Persian Gulf, which resulted in the destruction of an Iranian passenger airliner by the U.S. Cruiser Vincennes and the death of 298 people on board.

CBS television network quoted US Undersecretary for Political Affairs Michael Armacost as saying that the United States was protecting its interests in the Gulf fairly well. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Vernon Walters said on ABC that during the forthcoming discussion of the accident with Iran airliner he intended to defend the circumstances in which it had occurred.

"How well has the strategy worked?" queries the magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT. As a result of its implementation, the weekly writes, there had been moments of humiliation—the Iraqi attack on the Stark which left 37 sailors killed and mine damage to the reflagged tanker in the first American escorted convoy. Besides, Iran's attacks on shipping in the Gulf had more than doubled and Iraq's attacks had continued at a steady pace, the weekly writes.

Iran's acting permanent representative at the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati said in a CBS interview that American vessels deprived civilian aircraft in the Gulf of the guarantees of security. He described the American military presence as a new factor of tension in the Persian Gulf. Mahallati stressed the need to withdraw American forces which were the cause of many tragedies in the region.

Foreign Ministry Says U.S. Behind Aegean Attack

LD1207171288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report this afternoon our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a warning about the new U.S. moves and conspiracies:

With its military attack on the passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, martrying its innocent passengers, the United States is now facing a major problems in world public opinion and political and international circles. In view of the nature of imperialism and its inhuman attitude, it can be predicted that the U.S. espionage network, the CIA, and its agents may create unpleasant incidents in various parts of the world in order to overshadow the disaster of the attack on the Iranian airliner. The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have already drawn the world's attention to this matter.

He added: At the present juncture, the United States definitely needs to create such incidents, and the attack on the pleasure boat in the Aegean Sea, killing and injuring many of its passengers, is one such act.

While issuing this warning, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman called on governments and nations of the world to monitor U.S. moves and conspiracies and to prevent the United States from perpetrating any crime.

He emphasized: It is natural that the United States carry out these crimes in such a way that they might be attributed to the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the knowledgeable people of the world who are familiar with the vile nature of the United States realize the hollowness of these U.S. claims and know that the rulers in the White House plan anti-human crimes.

Envoy to Athens Interviewed

LD1207184788 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Athens, July 12, IRNA—Iran has denounced the terrorist attack on a Greek cruise ship Monday in which at least 11 people died and over 50 others were injured, and said it was an attempt to distract world opinion from the U.S. crime of downing an Iranian passenger plane in the Persian Gulf on July 3.

Iran's ambassador to Greece, Habibollah Biyazar, in an interview with IRNA Tuesday said the Greek ship attack was against the interest of Iran, and dismissed malicious press reports of Iranian involvement in the incident as "a pack of lies".

He said after the U.S. Navy's unmanly missiling down of Iran Air flight 655 on July 3 over the Persian Gulf, which killed all 290 passengers and crew on board including 66 children, the world opinion had turned against the U.S.

"We categorically condemn such acts of terrorism against innocent people which damaged the interests of a friendly and peace-loving country like Greece," Biyazar said.

When asked if those (Americans) who could shoot down 290 innocent people from the sky could also kill another 10 or more people in a vain bid to distract world public opinion from their crime, the envoy replied "it is quite possible".

"Whoever has committed this terrible act, he added, "was against the interests of Iran."

Commenting on other press reports hinting Iranian involvement in a car-bomb explosion in an Athens suburb Monday in which two Arabs were reportedly killed—allegedly an Iranian magazine was found near the explosion site—Biyazar said it was not an Iranian but an Arabic magazine.

He explained that Arabic and the Persian scripts are the same and therefore some newspapers confused it to be an Iranian magazine.

"It was a very funny conclusion," he remarked and stressed that the Islamic Government of Iran, as pointed out by parliament speaker Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, will not harm innocent people as a sort of reprisal against the U.S. crime, which would turn public opinion against Tehran.

He also pointed out the fact that the terrorist attack on the Greek cruise ship took place only a day before the U.N. Security Council was to debate the shooting down of the Iranian plane by the U.S., and repeated that it was a clumsy effort to distract the world from the recent crime committed by the U.S. in the Persian Gulf.

Speedboat Attack on Panamanian Tanker Noted

NC1307060088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] AFP reports that the 81,282-tonne Panamanian tanker "Universal Monarch" was attacked by speedboats in the central Persian Gulf last night. Shipping sources have said that the engine room of the tanker was set on fire and that water leaked into it.

Council of Guardians Urges People To Go to Fronts

LD1207224888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Statement by Council of Ministers on the current state of the war]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Events of the past few months have posed two questions in the minds of our people, both of which must be answered in detail. They are: What has happened, and what should be done.

If the aim is to regain the power attained in past great achievements, then the zealous nation that shoulders the heaviest burden of the war must learn the true answers to such questions. What has happened? The world of infidelity that sees the Islamic Revolution as a thorn in its eye, in particular the criminal United States and the black face of regional reactionaries, have mobilzied all their might to impose a surrender on Iran.

International oppression and the aggressor Iraqi regime, who have reached their limit in the face of the crushing blows by the warriors of Islam, have brought all their capabilities, whether their manpower or their weaponry, financial power, and command capabilities, and also their political capabilities to the scene during the past 2 years. The enemy, just as at the start of the war when it dreamed of taking Khuzestan in 3 days, has during this period nurtured it own desires and hopes based on its extensive planning and massive capital expenditure, all of which must be crushed. The ugly face of the enemy that the world sees today justifies our defense over the past few years.

When the enemy feels strong, it becomes greedy. The question today is how can one destroy this trait? What must be done? We must fight the enemy using the same methods of aggression he uses [Koranic verse]. If he is planning comprehensively, we must do the same. If the united front of infidelity brings all its forces to bear, we must also do the same. If we want to have pride and and be victorious, the entire country should undertake to

serve the war. We are not addressing only the armed forces and the administrative system of the country. We are addressing the entire Iranian nation. The capabilities of each and every one of us should be brought to the scene, even if it is limited to a pair of boots [as heard].

All our capabilities, even those of our children, must be spent on this holy defense, even if it involves simply sending a letter to a fighter, or a simple prayer, or just smiling and voicing our determination. The entire country must think about the war. We need planning, ideas, and views at levels greater than the past. Again, we are not addressing just the armed forces and the government. Everyone must plan their lives to defend honor, religion, and our nation. In such planning we must set aside a part of our year for this struggle, as well as our other capabilities. The government has started this important task within the framework of its responsibilities and is planning and mobilizing the entire resources of the administrative branch. Naturally, such important matters need time and the enemy is aware of this.

The distance between now, when the necessary decisions in this respect have been made, and when these policies begin to take effect will be the last chance the enemy has to deal a blow against us. During this time, in order to foil the enemy's dreams, we must attain the deepest awareness and planning through the massive presence of people at the fronts.

The General Command decided to withdraw from the Halabjah peninsula as a paremeditated plan in order to mobilize forces to defend the most vital parts of the country. The government informs the innocent people of Halabjah who are the dear guests of the Islamic Republic that should they wish to return to their town, we have made the necessary preparations. Otherwise, they are welcome to stay in Iran should they wish until the destiny of the Iraqi regime is finally determined. As far as mobilization is concerned, it must be stated that for the benefit of the zealous nation the next few months will be the most dramatic period in our holy defense. This obstacle is the one that will undoubtedly ensure our victory when we cross it. [sentence as heard]

We have decided to overcome this obstacle and not allow international infidelity to impose its will on us. The way to disappoint the enemy, who has today brought all its capabilities to the scene with the aid of the Great Satan, regional reaction, and Zionism, is to bring all popualr forces and the organizations that were born out of the revolution from around the country to the scene.

Go to the battlefronts, go to the battlefronts. As for the soul, it will only come from the dear and wise God. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 12 July 1988

Forces Depart From Kashan

LD1207181988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Summary] We begin the hour's news with reports from our correspondents in Kashan and Dezful about the dispatch of forces to the fronts:

In continuation of the departure of forces following the General Command Headquarters statement, a large number of popular volunteer forces from Kashan city left for the fronts from the IRGC's Headquarters there. In addition, a group of specialized combat forces from Kashan's Reconstruction Jihad left this morning from that organization's Headquarters.

A large number of trained veterans from Dezful left yesterday and this morning for the fronts following the important remarks of Imam Khomeyni and the General Command Headquarters statement on the importance of an extensive presence on the fronts at this sensitive juncture.

More Volunteers Leave for Fronts

LD1207215288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Following the announcement of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters on the need for the people's extensive presence on the battlefronts, a large group of fresh forces in the convoy of the third extraordinary dispatch of the Mohammad Corps today left IRGC Headquarters building for the operational sectors. They were given an enthusiastic send-off by the hezbollahi ummah and a group of military and state officials and commanders of the IRGC Ministry as they chanted the slogans of "Death to America" and "War, war until victory."

The IRGC Ministry's public relations office reports that all forces of this ministry stated their readiness to be present in the war zones and declared their support for the important statement of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters.

The Central News Unit reports that fresh troops of the people continue to depart for the battlefronts. A large group of trained mobilization forces of Hormozgan Province left Bandar-e 'Abbas for the battlefields yesterday evening. A large group of selfless mobilization forces from (Midshahr), near Chah Bahar, left for the battlefields in the special convoy of the Mohammad Corps. Another report says that the training battalion of (Emam Hasan Mojtaba) from the 2d Armored Brigade of Dezful, after completing its training, staged a glorious march in Dezful and then left for the battlefronts.

Also in response to the invitation of the IRGC General Staff a large group of combat troops from Yazd Province left Maybod today for the war zones amid a glorious send-off by the people.

Musavi Comments on Halabjah Retreat, War Effort
LD1307101988 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi presided over a session of the cabinet ministers here Wednesday morning in which latest domestic and foreign developments were discussed.

On present situation of war fronts and Iranian retreat from Halabjah the premier said "War is a complicated and technical matter and naturally at a certain point retreat will help the final victdory. In another point stationing of forces in a new position may have the same effect." The military commanders time these actions, he added.

More on the same issues the prime minister stressed that the Iranian Armed Forces and people will continue their holy defence and resistance with all their power.

He added that all Hezbollah forces must realize that they are needed in war fronts and that like the early days of the war the people must watch out for poisonous propaganda of the U.S. and its lackeys.

The premier added that American propaganda machine and that of its client states are mobilized for a psychological war against Iran which, he said, must be thwarted by the Iranians.

He also stressed that attention must be concentrated on the Iraqi imposed war, adding that Iran's foreign and domestic policies and its economy must be used for victory in the war. "This is the most important issue for the country and victory in the war is a victory for all Muslims."

Bill Exempts Musavi From Introducing Cabinet
LD1207164988 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) in its Tuesday's open session passed the principles of a legal draft which would exempt Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi from introducing his cabinet to the legislative body.

The draft was proposed by Majlis deputies (members of parliament) and earmarked with a two-star urgency Sunday.

Deputies backing the draft cite the special conditions prevailing in the country and the proximity of the presidential elections as reasons for presenting the exceptional bill to the Majlis.

The draft in fact amends Article 145 of the Majlis internal regulations which requires the prime minister to introduce his cabinet to the parliament within a week after receiving the vote of confidence from the legislative body.

The Majlis deputies will continue debating the draft Wednesday.

If approved the special exemption for Premier Musavi would be something exceptional and would not be a general rule for future premiers.

Council Overrules Majlis
LD1307140388 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Prime Minister Musavi must introduce his cabinet to the Iranian Parliament and get a vote of confidence, according to the ruling of the Guardians' Council which is based on the Council's interpretation of the text of the Iranian Constitution.

Earlier Wednesday the Iranian Parliament voted for exempting Prime Minister Musavi from the obligation and waiver Article 145 of the Majlis by-laws in his case. The article provides for a mandatory solicitation for a vote of confidence from each new term of the Majlis by the incumbent prime minister in Iran.

Khamene'i Says Nation To Have 'Last Word' on War
LD1207115588 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i said here Tuesday that the Iranian nation through its resistance will have the last word on the Iraqi-imposed war.

The president made the remark in a warning to the enemies of Islam and all those who by spreading rumors on war, foreign policy and Iranian officials try to divert the sacred defence of the Iranian people from its true course.

President Khamene'i was speaking to a group of visitors at the Presidential Bureau who called on him to make donations of gold, jewelry and cash to be spent for war efforts.

He said that the war was imposed upon Iran by the East, the West and reactionaries of the region with the objective of destroying Islam, adding that had the Iranians not resisted the enemy, aggression would have become a value [as received].

Support and assistance provided to the Baghdad regime by the East, the West, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other countries failed to help it to resist the Iranians, said the president.

Therefore, the U.S. directly became involved and moved in to the region, he said. This is only one side of the coin. On the other side there is a devout and determined nation decided to stand against domination-seeking powers and has proved this, he added.

"There is no doubt that resistance of the Iranian people is the main factor and not tanks, mortars and airplanes," he stressed.

He referred to rumors spread by world propaganda machine and said the idea is to disappoint Iranians with the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution and force the revolution to kneel down.

On the contrary, massive presence of the Iranian people in the political scene of the country is a sign of their sincere support for the Islamic Republic, he added.

More on Montazeri Speech on IRGC-Army Cooperation
PM0707140188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jun 88 p 2

[Speech by Ayatollah Montazeri on the 28 June anniversary of the bombing of the Islamic Republican Party Headquarters

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri commented on the recent order issued by the Imam to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said: This important message must not remain in the form of slogans or greetings. Victory in the war is not possible with the present situation in the military forces. Redundant or duplicate organizations within the Armed Forces and the IRGC, including military industries and military schools must be merged. Dedicated and experienced people should be used more when it comes to providing manpower for the military forces.

He stressed: Of course this problem cannot be solved in 2 days. We should have made this decision at the beginning of the revolution and we should not have allowed the situation of the military to get into its present state. The losses have to be reversed henceforth and the order of the imam provides a good opportunity for this change. The correct way is what has been mentioned in the Constitution, with regard to the Armed Forces and the IRGC. One must not weaken the Army in favor of the IRGC. The crushing of the Army was a plot of the grouplets after the revolution.

Of course, today the burden of the war is carried by both the Army and the IRGC, but the correct course is for both of them to go back to their rightful places. The responsibility for safeguarding the revolution, which is the task of the IRGC, is great and sensitive.

He added: To realize the imam's decree, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani must use dedicated officers, who are sympathetic to the revolution, and young experienced people as much as possible. [passage omitted]

With regard to the issue of the IRGC and the Army, a current topic of converstion, the situation must be resolved sensibly. Some thought has to be given to the creation of a unified and powerful military force. Duplicate organizations and tasks and differences must be discussed, keeping in mind the true and legal situation of the Army and the IRGC.

This is what the imam's order was about. Unfortunately, the enemy delivers a blow to us by strengthening and coordinating its military forces. They invest in strengthening and unifying their military. We know that if, God willing, the imposed war ends with victory, the superpowers will still not leave us alone but in any case we must resolve this problem once and for all. [passage omitted]

Mo'ayeri Receives Saharan Special Envoy
LD1207165788 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Special presidential envoy of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Mahfoud 'Ali Beiba met with Deputy Prime minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Tuesday.

During the meeting, Beiba briefed Mo'ayeri on the struggles of his revolutionary countrymen against plots hatched by the Moroccan regime and conveyed to him warm greetings of Sahara's officials and people for Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

In response, Mo'ayeri said that one of the major problems plaguing the Muslim world today is the rule of reactionary regimes over certain Arab states.

The deputy premier said that such difficulties would never have befallen Muslims if reactionary Arab regimes had not been persuing policies dictated by global arrogance.

Mo'ayeri cited the Mecca massacre of over 400 pilgrims by the Saudi police on July 31, 1987 as an example of Arab reactionaries' subservience to global arrogance. He also underlined the need for further coordination among revolutionary countries, especially between the Islamic Republic and SADR.

KAYHAN Editorial on Relations With USSR
NC0807042888 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Jun 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Moscow's Iranian Relations"]

[Text] It is difficult to sum up the tangle of contradictory elements coming from Moscow's oft declared "deep concern" about the Iraq-Iran war. If studied in the context of centuries of Irano-Soviet ties, we find absolutely no justification and are neither surprised over the

Soviet Union's unlimited support for the dictatorship in Baghdad. Painful events in the history of the two countries' relations have never been cleansed from the minds of the Iranian masses.

The arrogance of Russia under the czars, their irritating expansionist policies which led to the signing of several infamous Irano-Soviet accords to the detriment of the former and the annexation of Iranian territory are black spots in the history of the now Eastern superpower.

Soviet stance towards Iran after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution was not much different. The post-revolution Soviet Union did make some gestures of goodwill which called for return of Iranian territories and abrogation of earlier accords. In reality only a few accords were terminated but the communists continued to hold Iranian lands seized by their despotic predecessors.

The most ugly side of Soviet character was displayed after the World War II when Moscow went out of its way to stir up trouble in Iran's Azarbayjan region. Through their lackeys they set up an "autonomous Azarbayjan" to provoke the Tehran government. The activities of the now defunct Communist Party of Iran (Tudeh Party) is another sign of Moscow's historic wish to bring a powerful Muslim country under its tutelage.

However, the growing religious sensibilities in the Soviet Union could well affect Mr Gorbachev's political calculation. Conservative estimates put the Communist state's Muslim population in the neighborhood of 60 million. The Soviet leader and his like-minded colleagues cannot afford to continue ignoring the rising presence of Soviet Muslims which are more or less a quarter of the total population. Muslims in the Soviet Union, a significant number with Iranian ethnic origin, form the fifth largest concentration of the followers of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) after Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

The underlying reality is that Soviet Muslims sympathize with the Islamic Republic more than their leaders would like to believe or accept. Mr Gorbachev just cannot expect to be successful with his so-called glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) if major changes are not witnessed in his stance towards Iran which has 2,500 kilometers of common borders with his country.

Unfortunately policymakers in the Kremlin, deliberately or otherwise, have not fully taken stock of the advantages and gains of having the most anti-American country in the world for a neighbor. The Soviet leadership has yet to practically display its gratitude and appreciation towards Tehran for effectively dismantling tons of sophisticated hardware the Americans had stationed in the Caspian Sea region to spy and monitor Soviet activities.

It is generally believed (not in Iran) that Gorbachev is a Soviet leader with a difference: national, self-assured and eager to exchange views. But the Soviet Union's policy towards the war and Iran, especially after Gorbachev took power in March 1985, casts heavy shadows over his international image.

Sources well-informed on Iraq-Soviet affairs say the criminal ruler Saddam Husayn has received Soviet weapons worth more than $20 billion after he invaded the Islamic Republic in Sept. 1980.

The Iranian nation and leadership has been alarmed at the rate Iraq's arsenals have been stock-piled after Gorbachev took the helms of power. Long-range Soviet missiles have rained on innocent Iranian civilians, Soviet MIG's are responsible for a very large number of Iranian non-military casualties. And these inhuman events have unfolded parallel to Mr Gorbachev's image-building efforts at home and abroad.

Moreover, these developments come in the wake of Moscow regarding the Iraq-Iran war as "senseless" and is repeatedly calling for an immediate cease-fire in the nearly eight-year-old conflict. One can scarcely imagine what weight Mr Gorbachev's Iran policy will carry after the end of Iraqi-imposed war. Despite all these drawbacks and contradictory Soviet positions, the Islamic Republic has called for good-neighborliness and normal relations with its not so friendly neighbor.

Maintaining Iraq's military capability cannot be considered as a success for Moscow due to the reason that Baghdad has often used Soviet supplied arms to destroy and annihilate not only sectors of Iran's civilian life but has also levelled hundreds of Kurdish towns and villages with Moscow's military assistance.

Muslims in Iraq, Iran and the Soviet Union are once again anxiously waiting to see Moscow's next move in the "senseless" war. As things appear to be, the Soviets have badly failed to win substantial influence in Tehran. Nearly ten years of diplomatic, political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic has surely not placed the Kremlin in a better position than the White House in the eyes of 50 million Iranians.

Mr Gorbachev indeed is in a position to change the way Iranians feel about their superpower neighbor today. It will be too late if the war ends before Moscow declares an intelligent stance towards the conflict. Tomorrow is another day.

Air Force Commander Denies F-5 Downed 13 Jul

LD1307104788 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—An operations commander of the Iranian Air Force here Wednesday categorically denied Baghdad's claim of having downed an Iranian F-5 fighter in eastern Basra operational region Wednesday.

The commander said that all Iranian warplanes which carried out missions Wednesday returned safely to bases after successfully pounding enemy positions.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

SAIRI Operations in South

LD1107205288 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Muslim combatants of a brigade under the command of Badr 9 Corps of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Sunday inflicted substantial casualties and damage on the enemy in Hawr al-'Azim region, southern Iraq.

General Command of the IRGC announcing the above said Iraqi mujahidin affiliated to Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) killed and wounded hundreds of Ba'thist troops during the encounter.

Iraqi fatalities included several ranking officers, a brigade commander and four battalion commanders.

Some Ba'thist troops were also taken prisoner by Iraqi mujahidin of the Badr 9 Corps during the heroic operations.

An Iraqi brigade was demolished and scores of tanks and personnel carriers destroyed by the mujahidin.

Kurdish, IRGC Operations

LD1207050788 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Combatants of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), in cooperation with Iraqi Kurdish Hizbollah, destroyed two Iraqi military vehicles in their operations in Irbil Province last week killing more than 14 Ba'thist soldiers and seizing considerable amount of weaponry and munitions.

The Hizbollah peshmergas also hurled hand-grenades at a corruption den in the Iraqi town of Salaheddin [placename as received] over the past few days killing or wounding many Ba'thist agents.

Communique No 3,261

LD1207173088 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Iraqi positions in Shalamcheh, Zobeydah and Qal'at Dizah operational theaters were heavily pounded by Iranian jets in eleven separate sorties today, all Iranian planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy, the 3261st Joint Staff communique reported here Tuesday.

It said Iranian jets also carried out their routine flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Monday ignoring provocative warnings from foreign fleets, and reconnointered 46 foreign vessels. Naval forces of the Islamic Republic in the meantime controlled southern sea routes.

On the battlefields Iranin Muslim combatants by despatching patrol units and bringing enemy positions and supply routes under artillery fire inflicted some casualties and losses on the Ba'thist troops.

Iraqi forces, in violation of all international regulations, chemically attacked Iran's Muslim combatants fortifying their new defence positions on border strip in Sharhani region, in southwestern fronts, Tuesday morning. As a result of this attack, several Muslim combatants were affected by toxic gases. The chemically-wounded Iranians were transferred to hospitals.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces inflicted some casualties and losses on enemy troops when they grought Iraqi positions under heavy artillery fire Monday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Chemically Bombs Sharhani

LD1207173288 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Twenty-five Iranian combatants were martyred and over 3,600 others wounded when Iraqi troops chemically attacked their positions in Sharhani region, southern sector, Tuesday morning. The wounded were immediately transferred to hospitals and most of them were discharged after receiving outpatient treatment.

Iranian combatants were busy fortifying their new defence positions in border areas of Zobeydah and Nahr 'Anbar in Sharhani when subjected to the unmanly Iraqi chemical attacks which are in gross violation of all international regulations.

Iraqi Warplanes Turned Back

LD1207180688 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi warplanes violated the air space of several cities in W. Azarbayjan, Kordietan, and Ilam Provinces at 10:00 and 13:00 hours local time (6:30 and 9:30 GMT) today.

The Iraqi warplanes broke the sound barrier over the cities of Mahabad and Bukan (W. Azarbayjan Prov.), Saqqez (Kordestan Prov.), and Ilam, and fled when faced with the heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants.

Pakistan

Lahore Rally Calls for Immediate Elections

BK1307065188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] In Pakistan, about 200,000 people marched through Lahore today demandingd immediate elections. They were participating in a rally organized by the nine party opposition alliance.

The leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, criticized President Ziaul Haq and called for free, fair, and party-based elections.

The president of the right-wing Pakistan Democratic Party, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, addressing the rally pointed out that General Ziaul Haq has no option but to call for the elections.

Justice Minister on Elections, Shari'a Ordinance

BK1207033288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, said the next elections will be held in strict accordance with the constitution.

He made this statement at a meeting in Lahore yesterday. The federal minister said the government has increased the jurisdiction of the shari'a court through the enforcement of the shari'a ordinance and the high courts have also been empowered to review legislation prejudicial to Islam. He emphasized that after the process of enforcing the shari'a ordinance women will enjoy more rights, respect and honor, and protection.

Talking to newsmen after the meeting, Mr Wasim Sajjad said that enforcement of the shari'a ordinance has not brought about any changes in the constitution and the 1973 Constitution still enjoys primacy in official matters. He said the ordinance has been promulgated for 4 months and if the National Assembly does not approve it, then it be automatically annulled.

Senators Criticize U.S. Downing of Iran Airbus

BK1207113588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The Senate was assured today that the government fully shares the feelings of pain and anguish over the loss of 290 lives, including those of 6 Pakistanis, in the shooting down of an Iranian airliner in the gulf.

The justice minister, Mr Wasim Sajjad, winding up the discussion on three identical adjournment motions on the subject, told the house that the government fully appreciates and understands the sentiments expressed by the members over the disaster.

The adjournment motions, moved by Syed Abbas Shah, Mr Javad Jabbar, and Mr Tariq Chaudhary, were admitted by the house on Sunday. The justice minister recalled the message of sympathy and grief sent by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran immediately on receipt of information about the incident.

He regretted the incident and described it as reprehensible. A similar message was sent by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, to his Iranian counterpart. Pakistan called upon the American Government to initiate a full inquiry into the tragic incidents and to punish those responsible for it.

Earlier, the three movers [of the motions] and Professor Khurshid Ahmad took part in the discussion. They criticized the American Navy's action against a civilian aircraft while it was well within the international commercial corridor.

The house has adjourned to meet again on Thursday morning.

Editorial Comments on Iranian Airbus 'Tragedy'

BK1007103888 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Jul 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Ghastly Tragedy"]

[Text] The sheer loss of innocent human lives (290) involved makes Sunday's shooting down of an Iranian passenger jet over the Strait of Hormuz by a U.S. Navy cruiser an unmitigated human tragedy. But the circumstances in which the terrible incident took place also underline the danger of a direct military confrontation, by design or by accident, developing between the United States and Iran.

The sense of shock that the shooting down has generated across the world is heightened by the fearful prospect of more horrendous developments adding to the intractability of the Gulf conflict. The tragedy lends credence to the general apprehensions that as long as American warships are present in the Gulf as an extension of the continuing Iran-Iraq war, the situation could easily get out of hand at any time through miscalculation or a propensity towards adventurism.

The shooting down of Iran Air's Airbus-300 by a surface-to-air missile was more than a miscalculation or misunderstanding. It seems incredible that with all the sophisticated technology and trained professionals at its disposal, the U.S. Navy could not distinguish between a military aircraft and a wide-bodied passenger plane cruising at a low altitude of 7,500 feet.

It calls into question not only America's considerable military presence in the Gulf but also the reliability of the American systems and equipment that are at work in

this sensitive region. One important aspect of the horrifying mistake was that it occurred when no major military operation capable of causing a grave impairment of judgment was under way.

It is significant that when Iran first charged the U.S. Navy with shooting down a passenger plane, the Defence Department in Washington rejected it and claimed that an Iranian F-14 fighter had been brought down. This, again, was a lapse which defies a logical explanation. Eventually, however, the Americans acknowledged that a civilian aircraft had in fact been shot down by a cruiser which was "protecting itself from what was considered a hostile aircraft". In admitting its error, the U.S. Government expressed its deep regrets.

President Reagan described it as a "terrible human tragedy", but called the act of shooting a "proper defensive action". It was argued that the incident took place at a time when the U.S. Navy cruiser in question was engaged with five Iranian boats which, President Reagan said, "had attacked our forces". The Iranian version, of course, is different. The Iranian news agency, IRNA, said the incident came after U.S. forces attacked Iranian boats on a routine patrol. It condemned the shooting down of the plane as "among the most horrendous crimes of its kind ever committed by America."

The sense of shock is justified. The world, too, mourns the death of 290 passengers of the ill-fated plane. But the sense of tragedy caused by Sunday's incident acquires a keener edge at the thought of what might happen next unless the U.S. and its allies relinquish their self-imposed "policing" role in the Gulf in favour of neutral international force to ensure peaceful navigation in and through the troubled waterways.

Trust for Nationals 'Stranded' in Bangladesh

BK1007052288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Today, the World Muslim League formally set up a high power trust for the return and rehabilitation of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh. The trust will facilitate the return of about 2.5 lakh Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh and rehabilitate them. An agreement was reached in Islamabad today on establishing the trust. It was signed by the federal minister for finance, Dr Mahbubul Haq, on behalf of Pakistan and the assistant secretary general of the Muslim World League, (Syed Amin Abdul Attas), on behalf of the league.

Later, during a news conference, the federal finance minister said the president had already donated 2.5 lakh rupees to the trust fund. In addition, Pakistan will provide funds for buying land on which to build a colony for these people.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will be chairman of the trust and Prince Hasan bin Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will be co-chairman. Six trust members, including three federal ministers, have been nominated by Pakistan, and six other people will represent the Muslim World League. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will be the vice chairman.

The assistant secretary general of the Muslim World League lauded the efforts of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in establishing the trust. He said the World Muslim League will launch a drive to collect donations for this fund after the next hajj. He expressed the hope that the whole task of the return and rehabilitation of those people will be completed within 2 or 3 years.

Islamabad Reports In-Flight Refueling Capacity

BK0807162388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report from Islamabad says Pakistan has acquired the capacity of refueling multipurpose modern combat aircraft during flight. Quoting reliable sources the agency says that Pakistan is now engaged in building tankers capable of supplying fuel to F-16 aircraft while in flight. This will enable the aircraft to fly nonstop for 6 hours.

Sri Lanka

Government, Indian Troops Combat 'Terrorists'

LTTE Suffers 'Heavily'

BK1207161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The LTTE suffered heavily in the past 1 week during the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] operations in the northeast of Sri Lanka. A PKF spokesman said in Madras that the LTTE, which started the conflict with about 200 groups, is now reduced to 15. He said with the announcement by President Jayewardene that almost all the demands of the LTTE have been met, there is no purpose in continuing the fighting.

A statement issued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo today regretted that the LTTE has not responded positively to honest endeavors from the Government of India to bring them back to the democratic process. It said India will continue its efforts to persuade the LTTE to give up violence. New Delhi is fully committed to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, as it is the only basis for a durable peace in Sri Lanka, the statement said.

Clashes Noted in Northeast

BK1207120588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1031 GMT 12 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 July (LANKAPUVATH)—One terrorist was shot dead, seven apprehended and 10 including two girls detained in northeastern Sri Lanka yesterday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that one terrorist who tried to [word indistinct] after being apprehended was shot dead south of Kiran in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector.

One hand grenade was recovered. One LTTE tax collector from Chenkalady and two others from Batticaloa town and Kokkuvil were captured by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. Official sources said eight suspects were detained 03 kilometres south of Pavakodichenai in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector.

A report from Polonnaruwa states Sri Lankan security forces caught 03 LTTE terrorists, Vadivel Thirubairasa, Sinnathurai Kamalanatran and Sinnathambi Kugadasan and recovered a cyanide capsule. The terrorists were travelling in a van towards Colombo. On interrogation, terrorists admitted that they were members of the LTTE and proceeding for police interviews. They were handed over to the Polonnaruwa police for further investigations.

At Killevedi in the Trincomalee sector, 01 suspect was captured. IPKF troops observed 04 armed terrorists moving out of a hut towards the jungle three kilometres north east of Muttur. The terrorists were given chase by Indian soldiers. They, however, escaped after firing 03 to 04 rounds. Two girls including the one who gave signal to terrorists and helped them escape were detained for interrogations by the IPKF. In the Jaffna sector, a hand grenade was thrown at an IPKF patrol by terrorists when challenged. One IPKF officer was injured. Two improvised explosive devices (IED) were recovered three kilometres southwest of Puttur.

Meanwhile, a Sri Lankan Navy patrol apprehended a vallam [boat] proceeding from Sri Lanka to India with 13 Sri Lankan Tamils along with 14 packages of contraband Sunday, 01 mile north west of Fort [name indistinct]. Suspects and contraband were handed over to the Army detachment at Kankesanthurai.

Two miles west of Eluwativu in the Jaffna sector, the Sri Lankan Navy also captured a vallam with two 10 HP outboard motors proceeding from Sri Lanka to India with three Sri Lankan Tamils along with 01 polythene roll and 09 packages of contraband. Suspects, items and their personal belongings were handed over to the Army detachment at Kankesanthurai.

2 Indian Officers Killed

BK1207141988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1245 GMT 12 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Three LTTE terrorists and two IPKF officers were killed and two Indian soldiers wounded in an exchange of fire after the terrorists had attacked an IPKF boat patrol at Chelai, north of Mullaittivu, yesterday, Indian High Commission sources told LANKAPUVATH this evening. In another incident, Vignesureyaraya, a terrorist was killed when he tried to escape IPKF custody at Vavuniya.